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Los Angeles

County

2011 - 2012

# Superintendents

K - 12 Public Schools

4th  
Edition

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#### Temple of Heaven

It is one of the most photographed buildings in the world due to its elegant beauty and symmetry. Built in 1420, it was the place where Ming and Qing emperors prayed to heaven for a good harvest.



#### Great Wall

The Great Wall was built to keep out the warring invaders, but additional sections were extended eastward for nearly 6,700 kilometres. The Badaling section is the most well-preserved section of the Wall.



#### Olympic Game Site 2008

The National Stadium serve as the main venue of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The design was awarded to a submission from the Swiss architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron in April 2003.



#### Ancient City

Xi'an was authorized by the UNESCO as a world-famous historic city in 1981. Xi'an is one of the four Great Ancient Capital Cities together with Athens, Rome and Cairo. The ancient city of Xi'an is a miniature of Chinese history.



#### Forbidden City

The Forbidden City was built during the Ming dynasty. It is actually a city-within-a-city; with 9999 rooms spread over 250 acres. During the Ming and Qing dynasty, 24 emperors made their home in the Forbidden City.



#### Terra Cotta Warriors

The Terracotta Army, one of the wonder of the world, is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor of China. It includes warriors, chariots, horses, officials, acrobats, strongmen, and musicians.

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# Los Angeles County Office of Education

9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242  
562/922-6360 www.lacoe.edu



**Jon R. Gundry**  
Interim  
Superintendent

I am pleased to welcome you to *School News Roll Call's* Los Angeles County Superintendents Issue for 2011-2012.

As with the previous annual editions, you will find here essential information not only about your own community school district, but the many neighboring districts, sampling the rich diversity that is Los Angeles County public education.

There are 80 K-12 school districts spread across the 4,000 square miles of our county. The Los Angeles County Office of Education exists to serve all those districts and their 1.6 million-plus students. We do this in many ways.

As mandated by the state Legislature, "LACOE" certifies the financial health of individual districts and works with them to

correct any budgetary problems. We also help districts save, and safeguard, their money through the cost-effective delivery of essential administrative and business services.

We serve districts as well by educating many of the county's most vulnerable students, providing direct classroom instruction for about 27,000 young people, including children with severe disabilities, juvenile offenders and others at high risk of dropping out or with unique needs.

Through our Early Advantage initiative, LACOE reaches out to students, families and communities with early childhood programs, parenting and literacy classes, as well as job development services. The centerpiece of our school-readiness efforts is the nation's largest Head Start-State Preschool program, serving 22,000 preschool children and their families.

In addition, LACOE plays a key role in turning around low-performing schools and ensuring compliance with federal and state laws, providing districts with technical assistance and intervention/support strategies.

Districts also turn to LACOE for state-of-the-art technology services and specialized training and professional development for teachers and school administrators.

And, with that, let me yield to my many distinguished superintendent colleagues to tell their own stories.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



It is with great pleasure and pride that we publish this fourth edition highlighting each of the district superintendents in the Los Angeles County K-12 public schools. Our goal is to introduce each superintendent with their brief message to encourage you to visit their individual web sites for indepth information.

The quality of our communities are directly related to the quality of our public schools and Los Angeles County has much to be proud of!

Each district is dealing with unprecedented economic challenges; however, their number one focus is educating our youth to reach their potential.

## School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

4th Annual Edition

Covering the  
Los Angeles County  
Public Schools K-12  
Superintendents

**FOUNDER/CEO/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**NETRAGREDNIK CARTOONIST:** Neta Madison

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Laura Brune

**ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193

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### Please Note:

**Information for the following districts was not received by press time. Please review their individual web sites.**

**Manhattan Beach Unified  
Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified  
Sulphur Springs School District  
Wilsona School District**

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## ABC Unified School District

16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703  
562/926-5566 www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

### Main Thing—Student Achievement



**Dr. Gary Smuts**  
*Superintendent*

ABC Unified School District is an award-winning school district composed of 30 schools, serving nearly 21,000 ethnically diverse students from the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and sections of Lakewood and Long Beach.

A successful school district is made up of three elements: hard working students; supportive parents; and dedicated well-trained educators. The evidence is clear that ABC continues to prosper because of the sustained commitment of this community of support. We recognize parents as our students' first teachers and we have created a living network of parent communication and education.

#### Our Mission

Our District's mission is supported by the ABC Board of Education, a strong partnership with its employee organizations, business partnerships, volunteers, PTA's, booster organizations, and educational foundations.

#### ABC has a vision that is simple and powerful:

- We believe students in ABC should be as well educated as any in the world.
- We believe all students have the capacity to be high achievers.
- We believe people are the cornerstone of our district and students are the reason we are here.

In ABC, we believe that our district should function as an integrated system where all parts work together to support the classroom teacher. This approach provides a focus of energy, talent, and resources aimed at our "Main Thing" which is student achievement.

## Alhambra Unified School District

1515 West Mission Rd., Alhambra, CA 91803  
626/943-3330 www.alhambra.k12.ca.us

### Beyond Academic Success



**Donna Pérez**  
*Superintendent*

Alhambra Unified School District is the proud home of 19,000+ K-12 students residing in the San Gabriel Valley Area of the Los Angeles County. Since 2002 our 18 campuses have earned 62 state and national recognitions including two California Career and Technical Education Awards, two California Continuation Model School Awards, 43 National Title I Academic Achieving School Awards, 14 California Distinguished School Awards, and one prestigious National Blue Ribbon School Award. We are most proud of the fact that all of our K-8 schools and one high school in the District are now proud members of the "800+ API" club.

Today, our tradition of excellence continues strongly with appropriate programs and services effectively supporting the educational goals of a diverse student population including English learners, students with special educational needs, and gifted and talented students. In addition to the powerful test scores annually achieved in Math, English, Science and Social Sciences, our students continue to excel in the arts, athletics, and technology. Collectively, the District teaching staff, supportive staff, students, parents, administration and leadership are committed to meet and exceed the highest state and national academic standards.

"Academic success is our first priority, however, we want our students to reach beyond that. Our goal is for them to become future social and political leaders, to take charge of our economy, to take an active role in addressing important issues facing our nation and our world," explains Superintendent Donna M. Pérez. "And we're accomplishing this by building our program one student at a time," concludes Pérez.

## Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District

32248 Crown Valley Road, Acton, CA 93510  
661/269-0750 http://aadusd.k12.ca.us

### Looking Forward with Enthusiasm



**Dr. Brent Woodward**  
*Superintendent*

Welcome to the Acton Agua-Dulce Unified School District! Established in 1881, our district has the distinction of being one of the oldest districts in the state of California. The Soledad School District proudly served the needs of students grades K-8 until 1993, when the district became a K-12 unified district with the formation of Vasquez High School. Today, the Acton Agua-Dulce Unified School District has over 1650 students distributed among five campuses. We serve students over a 200 square mile radius.

As district superintendent, it is my privilege to work with outstanding educators and support staff, parents, community members and the Board of Trustees who are totally dedicated to ensuring an excellent educational experience for all students. Our district has made it a priority to create opportunities for our students which will prepare them to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Student achievement is our focus for the 2010-11 school year. We continue to celebrate past successes and look forward with enthusiasm to the future.

#### Our Mission

The Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District is dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment through which all students are challenged to achieve their individual maximum growth academically, socially, physically, and intellectually. The staff, parents, and community members will work together to help students to meet or exceed the California state standards, and will assist students to become productive members of our American democracy.

## Antelope Valley Union High School District

44811 Sierra Highway, Lancaster, CA 93534  
661/948-7655 www.avdistrict.org

### Innovative and Creative Spirit



**Dr. David J. Vierra**  
*Superintendent*

The Antelope Valley, which includes the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, is the home of some of the most innovative aerospace developments that have occurred in this century. Our District has embraced the creative spirit that prevails in the Antelope Valley.

Antelope Valley Union High School District prides itself in providing a safe and secure environment where a diverse student population can develop the skills necessary to perform effectively in a technological, information-based society. With a focus on school-to-careers, our District strives to determine what skills are necessary for our students to master to be effective as adults.

To this end, the District aggressively pursues continuous improvement in the structure of curriculum to reflect not only high academic standards but also relevancy to real-world application. Our District believes that the best school-to-career preparation a student can receive is a rigorous and relevant academic program. To support our curriculum improvements, an extensive staff-development program has been implemented to provide training for staff members in the use of technology in the classroom as well as innovative classroom teaching strategies.

From special-population students to the most gifted students, our District has a program or academy that meets the personal and educational needs of all our students. Our District staff is proud of the fact that our students are given wonderful opportunities in preparation for their adult roles.

As a parent, I share your concerns for the quality of education being provided, the safety of our students and the future for our children. It is the concern for the education of all students which drives my vision for the future of the Antelope Valley Union High School District.

## Arcadia Unified School District

234 Campus Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007  
626/821-8300 x 6728 www.ausd.net

### Engaging the Future



**Dr. Joel Shawn**  
Superintendent

A part of Arcadia's longstanding vision is to engage and support all students in meaningful and active learning that prepares them to be creative thinkers and problem solvers. Our progress in pursuing this goal is illustrated by the following three examples.

- Students at all levels use technology as a tool to increase their understanding, engage their interest, and use knowledge in real world applications.
- All of our schools achieve success in high stakes academic measures and in visual and performing arts, athletics and other special academic programs which allow students to use their skills.

• We are building the human connections among and between staff and students that can make the difference in all students finding success and becoming contributing members of a diverse society. Expanded counseling serves K-12 and seamlessly transitions students from middle to high school. Intervention programs catch students before they fail, and a wide variety of programs such as robotics engineering, video production, bio physics, culinary arts, civil law, and sports medicine, connect students to real interests.

With Phase 1 construction complete, including state-of-the-art science, lecture, and student services buildings at our high school, along with other significant structures and technological upgrades at other sites, we are well into our facilities bond improvements which provide the environment necessary to continue to improve our programs and assure all of our students a first-rate education in first-rate facilities. Additionally, a joint-use gym was constructed in cooperation with our City, providing students and the community increased opportunities for classes and recreational activities.

## Azusa Unified School District

546 S. Citrus Avenue, Azusa, CA 91702  
626/967-6211 www.azusausd.k12.ca.us

### Excellence and Innovation



**Cynthia Cervantes McGuire**  
Superintendent

Azusa Unified is a community that believes its children deserve the best education possible. Approximately 10,500 students attend AUSD schools which include 11 elementary schools, three middle schools and three high schools. The District also offers an extensive Adult Education Program, Think Together After School Programs for K-8 and 21st Century Tutorial and Enrichment Classes for 9-12.

Our instructional program prepares students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Azusa Unified has high expectations for students. Programs such as JROTC, GATE and AVID offer valuable enrichment activities. In the last three years, the District has won three Golden Bell Awards for Gladstone High's Link Crew Program, Azusa High's WORTHY Program and Sierra High's Mural Program.

Both Azusa High and Gladstone High offer a vast selection of Advanced Placement classes and Honors classes. In addition, Azusa students continue to make significant gains on statewide tests. AUSD teachers make a difference. To ensure the success of beginning teachers, the District offers an extensive training program with support from veteran teachers. Our dedicated classified staff provides vital support services for students. Technology skills are incorporated into the District's curriculum. Center Middle School continues to serve as an AVID Demonstration Site. Every school has a computer lab and every classroom has access to the Internet.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, 13 of our schools have been modernized and feature state-of-the-art amenities. Students benefit from partnerships with local colleges such as Citrus Community College, businesses and government entities. Programs such as CHAMPS, a partnership with Azusa Pacific University, encourage elementary students to start thinking about college. AUSD offers many opportunities for parent participation in PTA, Parent Boosters and the Superintendent's Parent Roundtable.



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## Baldwin Park Unified School District

3699 N. Holly Avenue, Baldwin Park, CA 91706  
626/962-3311 www.bpUSD.net

### Preparing Students to Succeed



**Mark M. Skvarna**  
Superintendent

School districts throughout the state are faced with more challenges than ever before. The educational landscape continues to be confronted with financial uncertainty and increasing state as well as federal achievement targets. In spite of these challenges, Baldwin Park USD finds itself working to ensure fiscal solvency and student success.

Innovative cost saving measures and revenue generating efforts are on the way. The District successfully applied for a Quality School Construction Bond worth \$25 million to incorporate a solar energy program that will generate enough power to run various school sites and may even provide additional revenue through the power company.

In order to build revenue and increase student success, the District successfully applied for and received significant grant dollars to augment its instructional program. Recently awarded, the Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) grant will provide our two comprehensive high schools \$3.3 million over five years to continue their efforts in ensuring that ALL students graduate well prepared for post-secondary opportunities. The SLC grant engages students through career focused pathways and academies, accelerates support for incoming ninth graders, provides interventions for students, and expands teacher collaboration and professional development time. In addition, BPUSD applied for early childhood education grants to expand services to all preschool-age students and their parents. The increase in services provides a literal entry point to stabilize and increase student enrollment to generate ADA funding.

As a result of the cost saving projects and competitive grants, BPUSD is confident that students will continue to receive a high caliber educational program allowing them to acquire the skills needed to graduate and succeed in the future job markets.

## Bassett Unified School District

904 North Willow Avenue, La Puente, CA 91706  
626/931-3000 www.bassett.k12.ca.us

### Dedicated to Quality Education



**Martin Galindo**  
Superintendent

Bassett Unified School District provides a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through adult educational program that prepares students to become life-long learners who will successfully address present and future challenges in a rapidly changing world.

Our District serves a large unincorporated area in Los Angeles County and portions of the City of Industry, La Puente and Whittier. It is located approximately 20 miles east of Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Valley. The District's certificated and classified employees work with over 5,000 students in five elementary schools, one 6-8 middle school, one comprehensive high school, a continuation high school, child development and an adult education program

serving about 5,000 students. The District provides a variety of educational programs suitable to the need of a multi-ethnic and varied socio-economic community including a large Hispanic enrollment of approximately eighty-three percent.

Bassett students and staff form a partnership with the community dedicated to developing and implementing quality educational programs that meet short and long-term learning needs of its students.

Goals for the 2010-2011 School year are: Improve Student Achievement; Increase Parent, Student, and Community Involvement; Provide a safe, secure, clean, and orderly environment; Enhance academic and extracurricular activities; Improve District Image; Recruit, retain, and develop qualified staff; Increase student attendance and keep students in our District; Work and communicate collaboratively with staff and community members in a positive manner for the best interest of our students.



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## Bellflower Unified School District

16703 South Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706  
562/866-9011 www.busd.k12.ca.us

# Quality Education for All Students



**Rick Kempainen**  
Superintendent

The Bellflower Unified School District is committed to providing a quality education for all students in a safe and inviting environment. Eight district schools have attained the prestigious honor of being recognized as California Distinguished Schools and three have been honored as National Blue Ribbon Schools. In addition, the district's continuation high school was honored with the title of California Model Continuation High School. As proud as we are of these honors, we are more proud of the parents, the children, teachers and all of the support personnel who work hard everyday to keep these high standards in place.

Bellflower Unified School District offers programs and a multitude of services that support classroom learning. These services include state-of-the-art computer labs, well equipped student libraries, guidance programs, career academies, tutoring programs, vocational training, health offices, and cafeterias serving hot meals. The district also makes available to the community an alternative education center, Head Start programs, a large adult school program, speech and language services, and expanded special education services. The clean and attractive appearance of our campuses and the safety of our students are priorities.

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining high quality programs and beautiful facilities while continuing to maintain a balanced budget and take the district to even higher levels making our schools showcases of progressive educational programs.

The entire community is invited to join us as part of the school district team so that we may fulfill our purpose to provide a quality education for all students.

## Beverly Hills Unified School District

255 South Lasky Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
310/551-5100 www.beverlyhills.k12.ca.us

# Inspire & Empower to Achieve



**Dick Douglas**  
Superintendent

The Beverly Hills School District is the cornerstone of the Beverly Hills community. It richly deserves the recognition it receives from the community and throughout the world. In collaboration with the students, the parents, and the community, we have dedicated ourselves over the years to providing students with an exceptional educational experience.

Countless individuals have contributed to a long tradition of excellence and have given freely of their resources, time and expertise to promote a climate of excellence and to further our District mission.

"The mission of the Beverly Hills Unified School District is to inspire and empower each student to achieve academic excellence, embrace social and individual responsibility, and lead with integrity. To these ends, the Beverly Hills Unified School District provides dynamic and enriching educational opportunities, collaborative community partnerships, and challenging and supportive learning environments."

This mission is achieved by building a foundation of trust at every level. By establishing trust, we generate positive relationships, establish clarity of purpose, and breed an environment that empowers every student and every adult to be the best they can be. In this way we insure that our students are prepared for the future and that Beverly Hills continues to serve as a lighthouse district.

Through disciplined leadership, teamwork, collaboration, focus, and planning, as well as an attitude that we will settle for nothing less than excellence at every level, the District will continue to make a unique contribution to our entire community.



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## Bonita Unified School District

115 W. Allen Avenue, San Dimas, CA 91773  
909/971-8200 www.bonita.k12.ca.us

### Student Progress is Our Business



**Dr. Gary Rapkin**  
Superintendent

Bonita Unified School District educates nearly 10,000 children in eight elementary schools, two middle schools and three high-schools. At BUSD, we believe “student progress is our business.” In order to effectively serve the communities in our District, we believe every employee, from teachers and administrators to classified and confidential staff, must work together as a team toward a common vision for student success.

It is the efforts of the entire BUSD community that allow us to continue to strive for excellence, find new ways to work effectively and finally, help each and every student gain access to their dreams.

#### Committed to Academic Excellence

The results of such hard work and dedication by our staff are evident in the success of our students, who have been consistently recognized for their achievements in the arts, athletics as well as academics. One example is how our students’ consistent increases in test scores resulted in the District earning an 840 on the California State Academic Performance Index.

Here at Bonita Unified School District, we pride ourselves on our commitment to academic excellence and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed. For the students in our care, and in partnership with the community, we strive to create a safe, challenging and comprehensive learning environment that not only shapes our students’ characters, but also encourages them to be the best they can be in school and throughout the rest of their lives.

## Burbank Unified School District

1900 W. Olive Avenue, Burbank, CA 91506  
818/729-4400 www.burbankusd.org

### Strong Partnership—Strong Community



**Stan Carrizosa**  
Superintendent

The City of Burbank was recently named by America’s Promise Alliance and ING as one of the “100 Best Communities for Young People” in the United States. This award was made possible by the strong partnership forged between the Burbank Unified School District’s Board of Education and the Burbank City Council.

We have all heard the expression it takes a village to raise a child...well check out our village! Last year the City Council poured \$10M of Redevelopment Agency Funds into reconstruction of key school district facilities to better serve our students and community. They supported Burbank Family Services Agency with more than \$230K to fund mental health counselors at our sites. The Burbank Police Department provides School Resource Officers in all secondary schools. BUSD partners with City Parks & Recreation, the Boys & Girls Club, and the YMCA to offer afterschool programs, and works with numerous non-profit groups to provide low- or no-cost daycare options for working parents on our elementary school campuses.

BUSD receives generous support from the business community: Warner Bros. provides a leadership program for our site principals and The Walt Disney Company contributes to district arts and academics. Arts education is also supported by The Arts For All Education Foundation. Strong PTAs at our school sites bring volunteer support and funding. This community-wide commitment has resulted in a district API score of 832, high percentages of proficiency for all students in all subjects, and an average four-year drop-out rate of less than 5%! It may sound prideful, but those of us who enjoy living our lives and raising our families in Burbank believe we *are* one of the best places in the United States for young people!

## Castaic Union School District

28131 Livingston Avenue, Valencia, CA 91355  
661/257-4500 www.castaic.k12.ca.us

### High Standards—Collaborative Effort



**James M. Gibson**  
Superintendent

Castaic Union School District is a suburban district located in the Santa Clarita Valley, in the northern portion of Los Angeles County. The district, established over 120 years ago in 1889, is one of the oldest in California and has been the historic gatekeeper for passage from southern California to northern California and Ventura and the ocean! That first Castaic school served approximately 20 students, grades 1 through 8, depending on the time of year. As the valley grew and developed, the district grew as well. In the early seventies the district served just under 350 students, in the eighties just over 400, and in the nineties student enrollment topped

1,000. Today, the district (API 840) supports four schools and over 3,000 students in grades K-8 at Castaic Elementary (API 862), Live Oak Elementary (API 813), and Northlake Hills Elementary (API 871) Schools, and Castaic Middle School (API 831). Three of the four schools are California Distinguished Schools with Castaic Middle School recognized as one of 200 national “Schools to Watch.” Live Oak Elementary School is one of 15 Standard and Poor’s nationally recognized schools for “Closing the Gap.”

The Castaic Union School District has developed specific core values that support teamwork, collaboration, and sharing responsibility and decision making. The District values setting high academic and achievement standards. Castaic Union School District values nurturing and caring for the whole child, respecting individual diversity, striving for personal best, building positive character traits and having the courage to stand by your convictions.

## Centinela Valley Union High School District

14901 South Inglewood Avenue, Lawndale, CA 90260  
310/263-3200 www.centinela.k12.ca.us

### Small Learning Communities



**Jose Fernandez**  
Superintendent

The Centinela Valley Union High School District is located in Los Angeles County, close to the Los Angeles International Airport. It serves an ethnically diverse population in the cities of Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Lennox, and is near the famous beach recreation areas of Redondo, Hermosa, and Manhattan Beach.

Addressing the fact and recognizing the need that students learn better in smaller environments, the district has worked very hard to maintain and expand the Small Learning Communities at the comprehensive high schools. Expanding to nine academies in 2010, the district now has: Biomedical Careers, School of Criminal Justice, Multimedia Careers, Marine Science Academy, School of Engineering, Environmental Careers, School of Visual & Performing Arts, Academy of Media Arts, and School of International Business. Business partnerships provide places for students to acquire internships that expose their learning to the real life work environment. It also engages participation in providing scholarships and mentoring to young people.

Centinela Valley Union High School District oversees three high schools, one independent study school and one continuing education program. Special emphasis has been given to credit recovery programs to help all students have a positive outcome after high school. In addition, there are adult and vocational classes that expand outside the walls of the adult school, providing opportunities for our adult students to become successful partners in their communities.

## Charter Oak Unified School District

20240 E. Cienega Avenue, Covina, CA 91724  
626/966-8331 www.cousd.k12.ca.us

# A Symbol of Academic Excellence



**Dr. Mike Hendricks**  
*Superintendent*

The Charter Oak Unified School District serves approximately 6,000 K-12 students in the cities of Covina, San Dimas, and Glendora. Charter Oak's tradition of outstanding learning and teaching dates back to 1894.

Charter Oak has been a symbol of academic excellence with its outstanding programs and services and increased achievement on a number of indicators. Charter Oak High School continues to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma and AVID Programs. The District has six California Distinguished Schools, is home to a model continuation high school and a comprehensive high school that was named as one of the top 1500 High Schools in the United States of America.

Charter Oak has also become a destination for co-curricular opportunities as students and community members participate in sports, music, band and theater arts. It is home to CIF Champions; a BRAVO Award winning theater teacher; a Golden Bell Award winning ELA program; and competition award winning drama, band, and chorus programs. Students engage in community service and outreach projects at all levels. They work with Rotary International; the Operation Santa Clothes program; the "Blankets of Love" campaign for City of Hope and the "Remembrance Walk" to remember loved ones touched by cancer.

Charter Oak is home to the new Oak Knoll Virtual Academy that serves K-12 students with a comprehensive academic program. Students take courses online with support from their teacher via phone, online Web meetings, and sometimes even face to face support. Oak Knoll Academy enables truly individualized learning and flexibility in pace, schedule and learning styles. The program is full time, meaning that it replaces a traditional classroom environment with a location that the family chooses as long as they reside in Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern, Orange, or San Bernardino County.

## Compton Unified School District

501 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Compton, CA 90221  
310/639-4321 www.compton.k12.ca.us

# Moving Compton's Children Forward



**Karen Frison**  
*Acting Superintendent*

Since taking leadership of the Compton Unified School District (CUSD), Acting Superintendent Karen Frison has continued the District's steady climb towards academic excellence at all 39 schools. Through its commitment to professional development, innovative learning programs, and parent engagement, CUSD is working hard to produce positive results for students at all grade levels, and to bridge the achievement gap.

During the 2009-10 school year, the District-wide Academic Performance Index (API) score demonstrated a significant gain of 38 points over the previous year's score. Ten CUSD schools also met or exceeded the 800 API target score. Last year Rosecrans

Elementary School became the third Compton school to become a California Distinguished School for its excellent educational programs, high student achievement, and accelerated and advanced learning initiatives.

Due to the state's fiscal crisis and its impact on California schools, Compton Unified remains committed to collaborating with all stakeholders as it develops cost-saving measures that ensure financial stability and an empowering learning environment for all students.

Acting Superintendent Frison believes that now is the time for Compton Unified and its community to come together as it moves forward to support its children, and motivate them to strive for academic excellence.

### Mission Statement:

The mission of the Compton Unified School District is to empower leaders to lead, teachers to teach, and students to learn by fostering an environment that encourages leaders and teachers to be visionary, innovative and accountable for the achievement of all students.

## Claremont Unified School District

170 W. San Jose Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711  
909/398-0609 www.cusd.claremont.edu

# Synergy Fuels Legacy of Educating



**Dr. Gloria L. Johnston**  
*Interim Superintendent*

Claremont Unified School District, a K-12 district, is widely recognized as a leader in student achievement. With a diverse population of more than 7,000 students, the district offers a challenging and relevant curriculum delivered by a highly-qualified and experienced staff who value innovative educational strategies, research-based curriculum, and global partnerships with both the city and local colleges.

The District consists of seven elementary schools, one orthopedically handicapped school, one intermediate school, two WASC accredited high schools, and a community day school. Ninety percent of the schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools; two schools have been awarded National Blue Ribbons; and two of the four Title I schools are Academic Achievement Award recipients.

How we educate our students is perhaps our greatest accomplishment. Our strength lies in the hearts and talents of our employees. The teachers, support staff and administrators have developed a synergy that continues to fuel our legacy of serving and educating the Claremont community. This is evident in our students who continually outperform their counterparts across the nation on standardized tests with many students recognized as National Merit Scholars, Advanced Placement Scholars, and many are the recipients of a wide variety of local and national scholarships. The District also features the International Baccalaureate program where students outperform worldwide averages. Additionally, outstanding athletic teams, as well as a host of state and nationally recognized co-curricular programs and activities provide students with additional opportunities to develop the 21st century skills of collaboration, innovation, communication, and critical thinking.

## Covina-Valley Unified School District

519 East Badillo Street, Covina, CA 91723  
626/974-7000 www.cvusd.k12.ca.us

# Innovative Teaching—High Level Learning



**Dr. Catherine Nichols**  
*Superintendent*

Covina-Valley Unified School District is dedicated to a simple but all encompassing goal, to cultivate each individual's hopes and dreams so our students flourish. We accomplish this through innovative teaching that results in high levels of learning. We are intentionally creating schools that give students the skills needed to successfully navigate in a complex world.

Covina-Valley is committed to developing students' creativity and skills while preparing them for college and careers through academies. Students who are intrigued with advances in technology may attend our Instructional Technology Academy. For students attracted to the arts and entertainment, Covina-Valley will offer an Arts Media and Entertainment Academy. Students

who are passionate about entrepreneurship, finance, and accounting will find a home in the Finance and Business Academy. And for those students who relish hands-on work, the Trade Center, offering courses in welding, HVAC, and other trades, is being designed.

Covina-Valley serves 13,500 students in grades K-12. Through ten K-5 elementary schools, three 6-8 middle schools, three comprehensive high schools, an alternative education high school, children's center program, and adult education centers, we offer personalized service and instruction from highly-skilled professionals in a safe, caring, and supportive environment.

Covina-Valley is proud of its California Distinguished Schools, Title I Achieving School, Model Continuation High School, CSBA Golden Bell Awards, Los Angeles County Award Winning Teachers, as well as an outstanding Children's Center Program serving infants to 5th grade. All schools boast parent involvement in PTA, booster clubs, sports, and other activities. Visit us for a tour!

## Culver City Unified School District

4034 Irving Place, Culver City, CA 90232  
310/842-4220 www.ccusd.org

# We Have Much to Celebrate

Patricia Jaffe, Interim Superintendent

Culver City Unified School District believes that every child must have equal access to a good education and must give every child the chance to succeed. It is important to promote our public schools which we can do by disseminating a shared message of values, vision and performance. We believe that our public schools benefit our nation by developing productive citizens who contribute to a strong economy. Culver City schools hold shared values that ensure that clear expectations are set for parents and for responsible student behavior. We believe that for children to become productive members of society that we must teach them the value of hard work and the need for respectful and responsible behavior. Our goal is to give students the skills and knowledge they need for their individual success and well-being

We have much to celebrate!

- Anti-Bullying Committee: Olweus anti-bullying program is piloted at El Rincon.
- Caring Community Program: instituted at all elementary schools.
- Culver City Middle School: recognized by Youth Voice Project as a school that combats bullying.
- Culver City High School: applied for 2011 California Distinguished School Recognition.
- Culver Park High School: recognized as Model Continuation School.
- Culver City Adult School: received WASC accreditation.
- Office of Child Development: two teachers recognized as L.A. County Teachers of the Year.

Our high quality PUBLIC schools give every child from every family the chance to learn the skills they need to be successful in life.

## Duarte Unified School District

1620 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010  
626/599-5000 www.duarte.k12.ca.us

# 20/20 Vision for the Year 2020



Dr. Terry Nichols  
Superintendent

The Duarte Unified School District combines all of the benefits of a small school district and a personalized focus with the benefits of being in the Los Angeles basin. Located in the San Gabriel Valley, in shadow of the mountains, Duarte has its 20/20 vision. Our current third grade students are the graduating class of the year 2020.

The commitment of Duarte is based upon four cornerstones: prepare students for success, a staff that provides high quality service, parents and community that actively participates and an environment that supports learning.

As a team, we also focus on providing the basis for students to be proficient in the global, digital, cultural and health fluencies that will be vital for their success in the evolving global marketplace.

The District's 20/20 vision looks for ways to prepare students for the world they will be inheriting. How can we prepare these students for job that have yet to be created? What tools will they need to be contributing members of society?

Four of our district schools, Valley View, Royal Oaks, Beardslee and Duarte High School, have been named California Distinguished Schools over the years. In 2010, Valley View Elementary won a Golden Bell award from the California School Boards Association and the Royal Oaks Elementary is a candidate for becoming a national Blue Ribbon school. Our high school is implementing career academies for all students while also working to provide each graduate the opportunity to have earned a year of college credit before high school graduation.

As part of a facilities bond passed in 2010, the district will be establishing an innovative technology endowment fund that will permit the purchase of the most up-to-date technology for our students on a continuing basis over the next decades.

## Downey Unified School District

11627 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, CA 90241  
562/469-6500 www.dusd.net

# Reputation for High Performance



Dr. Wendy L. Doty  
Superintendent

Our district of 22,700 students is located approximately 12 miles south of Los Angeles within driving distance of scenic mountains and beaches.

For decades, our schools have enjoyed the reputation of a superior school system. Downey Unified School District has been recognized again and again with distinguished State honors for its high performance. Please compare our Academic Performance Index (API) scores that are readily available on the Internet at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov). You are also welcome to schedule a visit to any DUSD school. I know you will be impressed with the safe, learning-centered environment, and top quality instruction you will encounter on all our campuses.

In addition to our strong academic program, we offer the nationally recognized CHARACTER COUNTS! program districtwide. This character education program, which is integrated into academics, discipline, and athletics, is based upon the following six pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

All of our schools have been renovated in recent years to include state-of-the-art technology as well as first-rate athletic facilities. We provide a full range of programs for students with individual needs including GATE, AVID, and Title I. Our K-8 campuses now offer ASPIRE, a free after-school, academic childcare program that runs until 6:00 p.m. and some sites offer YMCA child care before and after school.

On behalf of the Board of Education and our employees, I welcome you to visit the Downey Unified School District

## Ready for Preschool?

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DRE #01320892

## East Whittier City School District

14535 E. Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90605  
562/907-5900 www.ewcsd.k12.ca.us

### Motivate, Inspire, Excel



**Dr. Joe Gillentine**  
Superintendent

The East Whittier City School District (EWCS D) is a great place for students to learn and for staff to work. We value the involvement of the family in the learning environment and we encourage a family atmosphere in our schools.

It is the aim of the EWCS D to provide students with the knowledge of those academic skills and concepts which they must learn and apply to function effectively in our society. The District, in partnership with parents, endeavors to motivate, inspire, and encourage all students to use their unique potentials to reach their highest level of academic achievement and emotional and physical well-being.

#### Working Together

The District provides an outstanding educational program for all students. We are fortunate to have teachers and support staff who care deeply about learning and recognize the important role they play in the lives of our students. Our parents and community members believe in our schools and make every effort to be the best partners they can be.

From our Board of Education to our many volunteers, from our teachers to our support staff, we are all committed to the students of this great district. We know the difference we make in each child's future and the difference each of them will make in the future of this community and nation.

We encourage and invite you to become involved in the learning process of our students. We have high expectations for every student and our superior staff provides the learning environment that motivates and inspires our students to excel.

## El Monte City School District

3540 N. Lexington Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731  
626/453-3700 www.emcsd.k12.ca.us

### Progress Despite Budget Cuts



**Jeff Seymour**  
Superintendent

Once again, the schools of the El Monte City School District are making steady growth in improving the outcomes District wide as our students improve their performance in many grade levels in English Language Arts and Math. We also saw improvements in the grade levels tested in Science, Social Studies, Writing and Algebra. This reflects the hard work of our teachers, support staff, our students and parents in pursuing excellent results for our boys and girls.

The irony of this is that progress is being made despite the devastating budget cuts that have hit all California public schools. Our revenue decrease over the past three years is well over 20 %. We have cut costs, closed schools, reduced staff and, unfortunately, increased class size to help offset these devastating reduction in the monies supplied to educate our children. California now is the 3rd lowest state in providing monies to educate the children that will support its future.

How are we able to have our students performing better each year despite this terrible decline in funding? Our teachers and support staff have increased their skills each year. Because of special categorical funding, we have provided our teachers with excellent professional development in math, reading, writing, science and other areas. We have a group of teachers on special assignment (TOSA) also funded through very specialized dollars, who work with teachers to support their increasing skills. The District has also trained all teachers in the formation of Professional Learning Communities to insure that every student's progress is carefully monitored and academic interventions are used to increase learning results.

Thank you all again for your support of our schools and our students. We must make our support known to everyone possible to insure that our children have excellent support in funding their educations. We can do it together.

## Eastside Union School District

5006 North 30th Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535  
661/952-1200 www.eastside.k12.ca.us

### The Road to Academic Success



**Dr. Roberto Villa**  
Superintendent

The road to academic success for students in the east side of Lancaster, starts here in the Eastside Union School District, gem of the Antelope Valley and greater Los Angeles County. Our 5 campuses provide the 3,400 children with safe and nurturing environments. Our students and staff are to be commended and recognized for their outstanding work increasing academic achievement. All schools made significant gains in their CST scores. The academic discussions that are going on at every campus involve close looks at benchmark data and include vertical and horizontal articulation across all of the grades.

This year we are paying particular attention to how we transition our students from the elementary into the middle; and, from the middle into our feeder, Eastside High School.

The ongoing support provided by the Eastside Union School District parents, continues to be an essential part of the academic progress our children and their school can and will make. Each of our campuses competes to maintain our daily attendance rate above 95%! This alone has resulted in greater time on task for the students. The other bonus is the increase in revenue that daily attendance provides for the District. The District continues to hold class sizes at the K-3 level at 20 students to one teacher. We are building two new schools; one a Community Day School and the other will be an elementary school. The Eastside School District is lead by an outstanding Board of Trustees that work hard to all do what's best for our kids. Visit the Eastside Union School District at: [www.eastside.k12.ca.us](http://www.eastside.k12.ca.us) .

## El Monte Union High School District

3537 Johnson Avenue, El Monte, Ca 91731  
626/444-9005 www.emuhd.k12.ca.us

### Every Student, Every Minute, Every Day



**Nick J. Salerno**  
Superintendent

Despite the negativity surrounding state and federal finances and accompanying budget cuts to schools, students in the El Monte Union High School District continue to demonstrate great progress. Our staff is committed to this improvement and supports "Every Student, Every Minute, Every Day." Academic Performance Index (API, a state accountability measure) shows gains at every single school, ranging from +22 all the way up to +76 points. Our students' college eligibility rate (A-G completion) has climbed to over 30% at almost every school.

As a commitment to our students and community, the District has partnered with Rio Hondo College and U.C. Irvine to form the Rio Hondo Partnership for College. Each of these entities has signed the El Monte Union Pledge Compact, which guarantees priority registration and classes for all EMUHSD students who choose to go to Rio Hondo College. Further, there is guaranteed admission to UCI for all EMUHSD students that meet college eligibility criteria, as well as for EMUHSD students who go to Rio Hondo and then transfer to UCI.

The District is dedicated to every student's success. I know we will continue to exhibit that dedication and continue to overcome obstacles to achievement for all.

Our schools will continue to not only promote success in the core academic areas, but we will also support arts, music, career/technical education, foreign language and physical education programs.

## El Rancho Unified School District

9333 Loch Lomond Drive, Pico Rivera, CA 90660  
562/942-1500 www.erusd.k12.ca.us

### Quality Education—Better Tomorrow



**Dr. Myrna  
Rivera Coté**  
Superintendent

The El Rancho Unified School District serves over 10,600 students in eight elementary schools, three middle schools, El Rancho High School, Salazar Continuation School, Adult School, Early Learning Child Development Center, and the Special Education APEX Program. It is our belief that all students in the El Rancho Unified School District can and will learn, achieve, and grow each year. Our motto, "Quality Education for a Better Tomorrow," exemplifies the belief that our students will achieve academic proficiency, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop the expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society.

Our District strives to ensure that all students become responsible citizens and contributing adults. This strong sense of community is evident in the fact that over one hundred of our certificated and classified employees are El Rancho High School graduates! Our employees are proud stakeholders in the success of our students and understand that everyone – from the teacher in the classroom to the grounds man manicuring the lawn – contributes to that success. In November 2010, our amazing community passed a \$52 million G.O. Bond with a yes vote of 74.2%! Measure EE, which continues the modernization program started by a previous bond, will ensure that our schools receive much-needed improvements to their facilities.

The state budget crisis has not brought relief to the fiscal woes facing school districts. On behalf of the Board of Education and the parents and student community, I extend my deep and sincere appreciation to all of our employees for their sacrifices. In these challenging budget times, we must continue to all work together to provide our students with the educational programs they deserve. The El Rancho Unified School District exemplifies its primary belief in being a district with a strong commitment to excellence.

## El Segundo Unified School District

641 Sheldon Street, El Segundo, CA 90245  
310/615-2650 www.elsegundousd.com

### Rigorous Goals



**Dr. Geoff Yantz**  
Superintendent

As both a former Principal and Assistant Superintendent, I have witnessed first-hand our community's unfailing commitment to the students and families of El Segundo. We are a small district of five schools and a preschool, but size does not inhibit the unlimited aspirations of those who serve the students in this community. El Segundo schools are modeled on the Professional Learning Community vision that collegiality, collaboration, and individual attention to each student's needs lays the groundwork necessary to ensure each student lives up to his or her full potential.

The Board of Education has established rigorous goals for superior educational programs that address the needs of all students, as well as created an environment that supports teachers and staff while providing the resources to guarantee the success of all district programs.

The community-at-large is an integral part of the success of our schools, as evidenced by the extensive school modernization program completed after the passage of multi-million dollar bond measures. Although two of our school sites were constructed during the 1920's and 1930's, the renovation process labored to preserve the history and architectural splendor of early El Segundo.

Each school site benefits from strong, effective Parent Teacher Associations, as well as the support of the El Segundo Educational Foundation that makes direct annual contributions to all schools in the district. We are especially proud of the district's close relationship with the City of El Segundo with whom we share a common vision for student success both academically and as productive community members.

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## Garvey School District

2730 No. Del Mar Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770  
626/307-3444 www.garvey.k12.ca.us

# Rigorous Goals for Achievement



**Dr. Sandra Johnson**  
Superintendent

Garvey School District covers a four-square mile portion of Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel and an area of Los Angeles County known as South San Gabriel. The District has nine elementary and two intermediate schools serving more than 5400 K-8 students, with pre-school on each elementary school campus.

Student achievement is the top priority in the Garvey School District. These efforts are supported by a Board of Education that has focused the district with specific goals for increased achievement and closing the achievement gap. This year, a priority goal is to ensure high quality instruction aligned to the content and cognitive level of the State Standards. With a District API of 804, six schools well above the 800 mark, and four others close to the 800 target, this work is showing strong results.

Garvey's students benefit from a dedicated and hard working staff that helps the students score significantly higher on the STAR tests. In addition, many teachers sponsor extracurricular activities and help students achieve in other areas, such as History Day, with a Garvey student placing fourth at the national level last year. The district also provides after school programs on each campus, full day kindergarten, and class-size reduction in grades K-3. Each intermediate school provides honors classes, AVID, physical education, and band and chorus.

The parents in Garvey participate in active PTA's at each school, many school events, and serve on numerous advisory committees. To provide additional services to families, Garvey works with many agencies in the community.

## Glendale Unified School District

223 North Jackson Street, Glendale, CA 91206  
818/241-3111 www.gusd.net

# Focused on Student Achievement



**Dr. Richard M. Sheehan**  
Superintendent

Glendale Unified School District is a leader in initiating reforms to increase student academic outcomes and remains the ideal choice for parents seeking an exceptional, accomplished school district that is accountable for student progress. Realtors and other major businesses continue to report that the reputation of the Glendale schools is often a motivating factor when moving to Glendale or the adjacent communities of La Crescenta and Montrose, located within the school district's boundaries.

This year our District Academic Performance Index (API) increased another 12 points to 842 from last year. With over 80% of our 31 schools above 800 API, and 8 schools scoring above 900 API, Glendale Unified School District continues to be a leader in academic instruction and student academic outcomes. The Foreign Language Academy of Glendale (FLAG) program continues to grow in its numbers and success offering programs in Spanish, Korean, Armenian, German, Italian, and Japanese. The *US News and World Report* ranks our high schools in the top 3% of US schools, with Crescenta Valley High School and Clark Magnet High School earning Silver Medal recognition and Glendale and Hoover High Schools earning Bronze Medal recognition.

The district has many noteworthy qualities, among them experienced teachers, safe campuses, involved parents, college/career programs, innovative programs such as the FLAG (Foreign Language Academy of Glendale) previously mentioned, competitive test scores, and high student outcomes. Glendale public schools are committed to the highest quality instructional and support programs on campuses that are safe and secure.

## Glendora Unified School District

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

# 50 Years of Success!



**Dr. Robert Voors**  
Superintendent

As Glendora celebrates 100 years as a city, the Glendora Unified School District celebrates 50 years of unparalleled success as a unified school district. Long recognized as one of the premier school districts in the state, we are in a select group of 10% of the districts statewide which have achieved an API score of over 800 at all of its comprehensive schools. Our nine schools include six California Distinguished Schools, one Title I High Achieving School, and a Model Continuation High School. U. S. News & World Report ranked Glendora High School as one of the top 5% of all high schools in the nation.

Glendora is a District of Distinguished Schools where staff, students, parents, and community work together to provide a caring learning environment for all our students. Additional support is evident through our extremely active PTA, the Foundation for Glendora Unified Schools, various community groups and extensive volunteerism. Students learn in newly modernized schools that continue to infuse the latest technology.

In addition to world class academics, we offer exceptional, well-rounded educational experiences for 7,300 K-12 students that include CIF Championship athletic programs and award-winning band, orchestra, choirs and drama. Of all the quality programs Glendora offers, it is our people that make it one of the most exciting and rewarding school districts in Southern California! The District's success is the result of dedicated and talented teachers, support staff, administrators and school board. The Glendora experience is one of commitment to, enthusiasm for, and pride in excellence!

## Gorman Joint School District

49847 Gorman School Road, P.O. Box 104, Gorman, CA 93243  
661/248-6441

# All Students Learning Well



**Martin Schmidt**  
Superintendent

The Gorman Elementary School District is located at the southern tip of the beautiful Tehachapi Mountains, 60 miles northwest of downtown LA. Gorman has one K-8 school with 97 students and five teachers. The small size of our school makes it possible to have an individualized nurturing environment in each classroom where the average class size is 19 students. Gorman Elementary is designated by the State Department of Education as a district of choice. As such many families from surrounding districts enroll their students at Gorman to take advantage of the small school environment.

Gorman Elementary School is committed to improved levels of academic performance. The school recently saw a 105 point increase of its Academic Performance Index. Our teachers are building on this success and have set a goal of becoming an 800 API school. Our dedicated teachers are committed to high levels of teaching and learning and are involved in professional development training designed to strengthen their teaching skills.

The Gorman School District is known for having a very supportive Board. District goals have been developed that are guiding the Gorman Elementary District forward toward our vision of academic success for each student. The mission of our District is to provide a challenging and rigorous educational experience for each of our students.



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## Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

15959 E. Gale Avenue., City of Industry, CA 91716  
626/933-1000 www.hlpusd.k12.ca.us

### Partners in Your Child's Future



**Dr. Barbara Nakaoka**  
Superintendent

"Partners in Your Child's Future" is Hacienda La Puente Unified's pledge to the communities we serve. This partnering connects students' parents and extended families with our schools' and our District's staff. It also extends to the communities surrounding our 31 neighborhood schools and to the businesses in Hacienda Heights, La Puente, Valinda, and the surrounding La Puente Valley.

Our District is a rich mixture of generations of families that have attended and worked in our schools families new to the area, and families new to our country. As "a community committed to developing lifelong learners," we are continually building our abilities to prepare every youngster for success in a four-year college, even those who may not choose that step right after leaving high school, and to support adults in meeting personal goals.

Our commitment to partnerships exemplifies our Board's Guiding Principles. Our Board believes students, parents, staff and community have a shared responsibility:

- For the establishment of a professional culture build upon dedication, honesty, integrity, pride, perseverance, collaboration, teamwork, and mutual trust and respect;
- For recognizing the diverse learning styles and individual needs of students and ensuring all students meet high learning standards;
- To create a learning environment reflecting our community's diversity that is safe, clean, supportive, and responsive;
- To protect and preserve the short- and long-term financial well-being of the District.

HLPUSD serves over 21,000 Pre-K through Grade 12 students as well as many thousands of adults through an extensive Adult Education program.

## Hawthorne School District

14120 S. Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250  
310/676-2276 www.hawthorne.k12.ca.us

### A Community of Learners



**Dr. Helen E. Morgan**  
Superintendent

The Hawthorne School District prides itself on its strong commitment to learning and creating an environment for success. The District continues to dedicate itself to ensuring all students are provided with the best educational programs, facilities, and learning opportunities possible.

This year the Hawthorne School District Board of Trustees adopted a set of Priorities and Goals which focus on students, staff, and families. The Hawthorne School District recognizes the importance of families in the learning process and is working to develop the partnership between parents, families, the community, and our schools. This year has seen every school dedicate a

location on the campus to a parent center which provides parents and families with a place to meet, work, and be a part of the school community. We are continually working to build a culture of "family-friendly schools."

This has been a year of tremendous academic growth. We are very excited to have our first National Blue Ribbon School recognition at the Hawthorne Math and Science Academy. HMSA is one of only four California high schools to receive this honor. We also saw our first elementary school exceed the 800 API target, and have experienced significant district-wide API growth.

As I begin my tenure as Superintendent, I am delighted with the collaborative efforts I encounter every day with the Board of Trustees, staff, and community to ensure our students are well served. In these very difficult fiscal times, we have managed to come together to meet those challenges through the efforts of all of our stakeholders. We know it takes all of us working together to succeed in the difficult work we do each and every day.

## Hermosa Beach City School District

1645 Valley Dr., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254  
310/937-5877 www.hbcasd.org

### Education—A Community Priority



**Dr. Bruce Newlin**  
Superintendent

Education in Hermosa Beach has always been a community priority. As evidence of this commitment we can point to the highly successful fund raising that parents and the community have been involved in over the past several years. Without that support the schools of Hermosa Beach would not have been able to offer many of the programs that we currently make available to our students. The result has been API scores over 900 and students who have been exposed to the arts and make use of technology on a daily basis.

But schools are now being asked to accept a different sort of challenge, the challenge of teaching 21st Century Skills (Creativity, Problems Solving and Collaboration) as well as the basics and doing all of this with diminishing resources.

Public schools in California are highly dependent on the state for the funding necessary to operate education programs that all of us feel are very important. When you are dependent on someone else to provide you with the necessary fiscal resources then when they have fiscal issues we have fiscal issues.

Because schools are people organizations, 85% of our budgets are people expenses. Classroom teachers, school administrators, instructional aides, secretaries and clerks are all part of this so when we talk about cutting back what is really happening is that we are reducing the number of people who work in schools.

In Hermosa Beach we are faced with the cost cutting problems that all school districts in the state are faced with and like those other district we are having to reduce the kinds of services we provide and to cut back on the people who provide those services. The net result is that our educational programs will be dramatically impacted and our focus on quality will take a back seat to survival.

## Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District

16633 Elizabeth Lakes Road., Lake Hughes, CA 93532  
661/724-1231 www.heluesd.org

### Public School With A Private Feel



**Diane Parkins**  
Superintendent

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary School District is a rural K-8 one school district, nestled in the hills of the Angeles National Forest. Sitting in the northern most portion of Los Angeles County, with an enrollment of 360, the school serves students from the mountain communities of Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lakes, Green Valley and Pine Canyon. The District is one of the oldest in all of the Antelope Valley

The school's setting is picturesque with a view that stretches from Sawmill Mountain in the west to Mount Baldy in the San Gabriel Mountains far to the East. The school prides itself on meeting the needs of each student because of small class sizes and continuity of teacher staff and students enrolled in the school. All students are served in the general education classroom. This is the model that earned Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary District the title of California Distinguished School.

HELUS is a District of Choice where any parent can chose to enroll their children during an open enrollment period. The school offers a solid core, standards-based instructional day supported by academic intervention. Teachers engage in professional collaboration and analysis of their instructional practice to ensure all students are successful learners. Parents and community members are an important part of the school community. The environment is positive and friendly and visitors comment on the positive outlook everyone has on our campus. HELUS is a wonderful place to work, volunteer and attend school!

## Inglewood Unified School District

410 South Inglewood Avenue., Inglewood, CA 90301  
310/419-2700 <http://iusd.net>

## Community Support Vital to Success



**Gary McHenry**  
Superintendent

Located in Los Angeles County, California, the Inglewood Unified School District serves approximately 12,800 students from the cities of Inglewood and Ladera Heights. In total, there are thirteen elementary schools and six secondary schools. In addition, there is one preschool center and a community adult school.

Inglewood's elementary schools are often considered to have defied the statistics. Despite the low average socioeconomic level of students district-wide, IUSD elementary schools have earned national and international recognition for their outstanding academic performance. Bennett-Kew, Centinela, Kelso, Hudnall and Beulah Payne elementary schools have earned the title of "California Distinguished School." Highland Elementary has earned the recognition of "Blue Ribbon School."

The Inglewood Unified School District's strengths are demonstrated in its support from various partners, including local businesses, organizations, and institutions of higher learning. The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) is one major partner, assisting the school district at the middle and high school levels in preparing students to enter and succeed at colleges and universities.

The first Inglewood school opened in 1888; the Inglewood Unified School District was later founded in 1953. In 1998, the school district embarked upon an extensive program to improve school facilities with the passage of the Measure K bond by Inglewood and Ladera Heights voters. The Measure K program will bring modernization repairs and new construction to 18 schools district-wide.

## Keppel Union School District

34004 128th Street East, P. O. Box 186, Pearblossom, CA 93553  
661/944-2155 [www.keppel.k12.ca.us](http://www.keppel.k12.ca.us)

## Lifelong Learners & Contributing Citizens



**Steve Doyle**  
Superintendent

The Keppel Union School District is a K-8 District of 3000 students, located in the southeastern portion of the Antelope Valley, which is approximately 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Keppel serves the communities of Littlerock, Pearblossom, Lake Los Angeles, Llano and surrounding areas. Keppel is proud to offer six small schools of less than 650 students each. Class size reduction is in place in grades K-3, and all kindergartners benefit from full-day instruction. Keppel staff is committed to the goal of achieving academic excellence through a program of instruction which offers each child an opportunity to develop to the height of his or her individual capabilities.

With a reduction of almost four million dollars to our \$22,000,000 budget over the past two years, in addition to a decline in student population of approximately 325 students over the past four years, we continue to provide

a quality educational program. So much so, that this past year one of our schools, Daisy Gibson Elementary, exited Program Improvement status. We also embarked on the challenge of transforming Almondale Middle School into the new and improved Keppel Academy. Keppel Academy added 6th grade students and now has a school wide focus on AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) by creating an environment for higher aspirations for the future of our students.

The continued academic achievements evident in all our schools reinforce the direction set by our Board of Trustees. We never lose sight of the primary focus centering on "kids first" decision making and fiscal responsibility in light of the difficult economic times thrust upon us.

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More info contact: Vince Ray

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## La Canada Unified School District

4490 Cornishon Avenue, La Canada, CA 91011  
818/952-8300 www.lcusd.k12.ca.us

### Every Student Succeeds



**James Stratton**  
Superintendent

La Cañada Unified School District is a learning community committed to personal growth and academic excellence. Current student enrollment is approximately 4000 and students in all grades consistently score among the top 10% on California Standards Tests.

The district operates three elementary schools and a combined 7-12 school. Each school in the district has scored over 900 on the Academic Performance Index (API) and has developed an "Every Student Succeeds" plan to ensure that all students receive appropriate support in mastering academic standards.

La Cañada Unified School District encompasses the residential community of La Cañada Flintridge, situated in the foothills about thirteen miles north of downtown Los Angeles. La Cañada Flintridge is home of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Descanso Gardens. The professional residents of La Cañada are attracted to the city because of its excellent schools and its strong community spirit. Parent participation and involvement in the schools are extensive as evidenced by a robust educational foundation which contributes over a million dollars annually to the district. District residents also recently passed a parcel tax to support the schools.

Approximately 98% of graduating seniors enroll in post-secondary schools with many students attending some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the nation.

The high school has twice been named a National Blue Ribbon school and all four schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools and as Gold Medal winners by California Business for Education Excellence.

## Lancaster School District

44711 N. Cedar Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93534  
661/948-4661 www.lancaster.k12.ca.us

### Academic & Personal Excellence



**Dr. Howard Sundberg**  
Superintendent

Lancaster School District is located in the high desert about 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles and serves students in preschool through eighth grade. Most of the District's 82.5 square miles lies within the City of Lancaster with a small portion in the unincorporated boundaries of Los Angeles County.

Educating Antelope Valley youth since 1885, we believe the District provides excellent educational opportunities for the more than 15,000 students who attend our schools. We have one alternative education, five middle, and thirteen elementary schools. In addition, we serve over 700 students in our preschool program.

The District is an active participant with the seven other Antelope Valley elementary districts and the high school district to provide quality programs. Teams of teachers and administrators from these districts meet monthly to articulate the K-12 programs.

The mission of the Lancaster School District, a group of dedicated and caring professionals, is, with the support of the community, to develop academic and personal excellence in all students through a rigorous curriculum infused with high expectations within a safe and secure environment fostering socially responsible citizens who enrich our diverse community.

Our district has implemented a Five Year Strategic Plan designed to "chart our course" through the year 2012. Developed within mutually agreed upon parameters and based on shared beliefs, four key objectives will be our focus: Academic rigor, Safety for all, Positive community relations and Personal excellence and social responsibility.

## Las Virgenes Unified School District

4111 North Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
818/880-4000 www.lvusd.org

### Keeping a Vision in the Face of Adversity



**Dr. Donald M. Zimring**  
Superintendent

The plight of public schools in California and, more importantly, in our community, has begun to take center stage as school districts face unprecedented cuts to their funding by the state. It is not a time when most people would be optimistic about public education's future. But that is exactly why I am.

A year ago, our Board of Education asked a simple but powerful question: "How do we maintain a vision in the face of adversity?" For our district, not only have we been able to do this, we intend to continue doing so. Every day, we look into the future through the achievement and success of our students. Our children continue to achieve at the highest levels of academic performance. Our teachers perform minor miracles on a daily basis as they look to new and better ways to help children learn.

Earlier this year, our Board of Education re-adopted our District Dynamics and Focus Areas. While many organizations adopt "goals", our Board recognizes the fluid and at times revolutionary nature of what education has become. Along with the fundamental dynamics that are necessary to provide 21st century learning to our students, we focus on the Delivery of Instruction and Services to Students; Student Responsibility and Citizenship; Synergy of Staff, Parent/Community and Education; and Collaboration.

What does all this mean for our students? They are growing up to be responsible members of our community and the world. Ninety percent of our graduates go on to college with our graduates being accepted to the most prestigious universities and colleges in the country.

With all this, how can anyone be other than optimistic about our future? Do we have unprecedented challenges? Absolutely. However, we have the collective talent and will to solve the problems put before us. The challenges that we face in the short term are dwarfed by the opportunities and potential that we see realized every day in our classrooms.

## Lawndale Elementary School District

4161 W. 147th Street, Lawndale, CA 90260.  
310/973-1300 www.Lawndale.k12.ca.us

### Communicate, Collaborate & Cooperate



**Dr. Ellen Dougherty**  
Superintendent

The Lawndale School District has a long history of caring and effective leadership by the Board of Trustees. They have created a community in which we are all scholars and all teachers, working together to spark a life-long love for learning. We serve 5,800 students, preschool through eighth grade. In addition to our core educational programs, our services include home visits for preschool age students and their parents, preschools for students ages three and four, and enriching extended day programs before and after school. While we face the same issues and complexity of challenges of all organizations, we are small enough to address solutions on a personal level.

We serve a diverse community, considering our differences to be our strength as we celebrate our cultures, delight in our languages, and create community in classrooms, schools, and neighborhoods. We strive for equity and excellence for all. Our first and most important lens is what is good for our students.

One of the ways we have been able to accomplish this is with our ability to communicate, collaborate, and cooperate so that we do what is in the best interest of our students. We are able to identify issues and resolve disagreements without being disagreeable, because we keep our focus on our students. We partner with various organizations to ensure success for all. As a result, we are seeing a dramatic raise in student achievement as measured by local benchmarks and State assessments.

## Lennox School District

10319 Firmona Avenue, Lennox, CA 90304  
310/695-4000 www.lennox.k12.ca.us

### Educating the Whole Child



**Dr. Fred Navarro**  
Superintendent

Lennox first began providing public education in 1910 with only one school—a wood-frame structure for 50 students. Since these modest beginnings, the Lennox School District has grown to its current size and configuration of more than 5,200 students attending a preschool, five elementary schools, a middle school, and a charter high school. The Lennox community is an unincorporated 1.3 sq. mile area of Metropolitan Los Angeles situated adjacent to the Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA). The Lennox Board of Trustees strongly encourages community involvement as an essential element of effective schools.

Lennox teachers, administrators and staff are highly dedicated to the task of addressing the needs of the whole child—academically, socially, physically, and emotionally—so that every child can achieve.

Recently, due to the district's educational redesign efforts, the Lennox School District has experienced a significant rise in mathematics achievement. In the 2009-10 school year, all elementary schools scored at least 65% proficient or advanced on California state mathematics assessments with some schools scoring almost 76% proficient or advanced. The district's average for math was almost ten points higher than required federal levels.

This academic success will soon be enhanced through the construction of better learning environments for its students. Through the assistance of LAWA, and with support from Representative Harmon's office, the Lennox District will qualify for \$110 million dollars in FAA funds to improve sound attenuation in all of its classrooms while adding windows to bring in natural light. This long awaited enhancement will compliment the district's educational program.

## Little Lake City School District

10515 S. Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
562/868-8241 www.littlelake.k12.ca.us

### History of Educational Excellence



**Dr. Phillip Perez**  
Superintendent

The Little Lake City School District continues its long and illustrious history of educational excellence. Serving the communities of Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, and a segment of Downey, the district educates 4,900 students in grades K-8 at seven elementary schools and two middle schools. Generations of families have attended Little Lake schools, including those of many of our faculty, staff, and administrators.

Little Lake is proud of our academic accomplishments. Our students score proficient or advanced in meeting grade level standards on the California Standards Tests at a rate that exceeds the state. Little Lake schools have earned state and

national recognition, including: Title I Achieving School; California Distinguished Schools; California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll recognition; and both nomination and achievement as National Blue Ribbon Award Schools. As of spring 2010, all seven Little Lake elementary schools have earned APIS topping the 800 mark and both middle schools are within reach of this state goal. Complementing a strong core academic program are innovative and renowned offerings in the visual and performing arts at all district schools. In spring 2010, 97% of district parents surveyed expressed their satisfaction with the schools their children attend.

Driving the district's success are a cohesive and focused governance team, highly qualified teachers and administrators, and a dedicated classified support staff. Our efforts as a Professional Learning Community are aimed at providing a quality education that ensures success for every student. Please visit our website for more information about the District and our schools.

## Long Beach Unified School District

1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810  
562/997-8000 www.lbschools.net

### State Budget Cuts Jeopardize Education



**Christopher J. Steinhauer**  
Superintendent

Even as Long Beach schools attract international attention for their successes, ever-gloomier news on California's budget means that public schools are in serious jeopardy.

In February our Board of Education cut more than \$50 million from our budget because of the state's fiscal crisis. These cuts will affect many aspects of education here in California's third largest school district.

The local cuts are part of our efforts to plan for a worst-case budget scenario that will occur if voters statewide do not approve the extension of certain taxes that are set to expire. The cuts here include the elimination of as many as 778 jobs. Most of those jobs are teaching positions, including 429 jobs that will be lost as we maximize class sizes.

Our budget cuts also mean the closure of two elementary schools, and job losses for school administrators, librarians, nurses, psychologists, counselors and others. Central office cuts of about \$8.5 million will include more than \$1 million in reductions to transportation.

With the latest cuts, LBUSD has reduced its budget by more than \$200 million since 2008.

Ironically, visitors from Israel and Japan are visiting our schools to learn about our teacher training, our use of technology to improve instruction, and other innovations and successes.

The fact that our school district is widely recognized as one of the best makes the state's budget cuts even more tragic. Although there is still time to save our school system and its positive impacts upon property values, quality of life and the future of thousands of students, time is running out.

We ask our many supporters to stay informed, get involved and help to prevent the dismantling of public education.

## Los Angeles Unified School District

333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90017  
213/241-1000 http://notebook.lausd.net

### No Excuses



**Ramon C. Cortines**  
Superintendent

With more than 671,000 students in kindergarten through the 12th grade, LAUSD serves a 710-square-mile area that includes the cities of Los Angeles, Cudahy, Gardena, Huntington Park, Lomita, Maywood, San Fernando, Vernon and West Hollywood as well as a portion of nearly two dozen additional cities and several unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

Size is one of many challenges, as is California's continuing budget crisis and this state's failure to provide adequate funding for public education. So are: geography, diversity and poverty. Most students qualify for the free-or-reduced-price lunch. An increasing number is being uprooted, forced

to move in with friends or relatives or ending up homeless and in a shelter as parents lose jobs. The number of children in foster care or living with guardians is also growing.

Despite these and many more hurdles to increasing student achievement, we offer no excuses.

We get results as evidenced by a 16-point gain on the Academic Performance Index in 2010.

We expect even greater progress.

Here at LAUSD, we share the belief that all students can learn. All students can succeed academically. All students can excel.

After my more than six decades as an educator—as a classroom teacher, principal and superintendent—I have learned that improving student achievement in a large, diverse, urban district such as LAUSD is a marathon, not a sprint. The race continues.

## Los Nietos School District

8324 South Westman Avenue, Whittier, CA 90606  
562/692-0271 www.losnietos.k12.ca.us

# Sesquicentennial Anniversary



**Jonathan Vasquez**  
Superintendent

Established in 1861, the Los Nietos School District is celebrating its sesquicentennial anniversary as I enter my second year as Superintendent. Nestled in an unincorporated part of Whittier, the Los Nietos School District is 3.6 miles in length and serves a student population that is slightly less than 2000 ADA, 95% Hispanic, 43% English Language Learners, and 100% free/reduced lunch. As we celebrate 150 years of continuous operation, our elementary district has much to celebrate besides longevity. With a 43% English Learner population in the district, meeting the academic and language needs of our English Learners has been a priority at all four of our schools. That is why in 2010 we were pleased to successfully exit out of the Federal Title III requirements of No Child Left Behind by meeting all Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives for the second year in a row.

With an API of 770, the Los Nietos School District has grown a total of 83 API points over the past three years and no schools are in Program Improvement. Of greatest pride on our 150th anniversary was the fact that the middle school that bears the District's name, Los Nietos Middle School, was the only middle school in Los Angeles County to exit out of Program Improvement last year. I have been reflective this year of the other Los Nietos Superintendents who came before me and wonder if they felt as much pride for their District's academic accomplishments as I currently do on our sesquicentennial anniversary.

## Lynwood Unified School District

11321 Bullis Road, Lynwood, CA 90262  
310/886-1600 www.lynwood.k12.ca.us

# Good to Great—Striving & Thriving



**Edward Velasquez**  
Superintendent

Lynwood Unified School District educates students in twelve elementary schools, three middle schools and three high-schools.

At LUSD, our goal is to ensure "every student will be prepared for college and a career" upon high-school graduation. In order to effectively serve the communities in our District, we believe every employee, from teachers and administrators to classified staff, must work together as a team toward a common vision for student success. It is the efforts of the entire LUSD community that allow us to continue to strive for excellence, find new ways to work effectively and finally, provide each and every student with the tools they need to be successful.

In order to ensure all of our students receive a solid academic foundation and have a variety of options available to them after high-school, LUSD offers a rigorous curriculum and high-quality learning environments that are led by dedicated teachers, administrators and staff. We also are working to provide cutting-edge professional development opportunities to our staff to help them best serve our students inside the classroom.

Here at LUSD, we take great pride in our commitment to strive for student achievement and academic excellence. We truly believe that it is our duty to offer every student the opportunity to succeed. For our students, as well as our parents, community members, teacher and staff, Lynwood Unified School District remains dedicated to offering a safe and comprehensive learning environment that is designed to ensure the thousands of students we serve daily reach their highest academic potential.

## Lowell Joint School District

11019 Valley Home Ave., Whittier, CA 90603  
562/943-0211 www.ljbsd.org

# School & Community Collaboration



**Dr. Patricia A. Howell,**  
Superintendent

The Lowell Joint School District is located in the southeastern portion of Los Angeles County and the northwestern portion of Orange County. It serves families from the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier. The parents of the community are very supportive of programs and involved at the schools.

The District serves the educational needs of approximately 3,100 students in Kindergarten through eighth grade at five K-6 elementary schools and one junior high school. An independent study program is provided for families wishing to home school their children. The District is committed to providing a strong academic program of basic skills having achieved API scores in the 800's. There is also a commitment to a well-rounded program of traditional subject offerings and a focus on high achievement and accountability for all students.

All six schools acknowledge the importance of education, the family, and traditional American values. There is an emphasis on higher education, personal integrity, social responsibility, Character Education, and an appreciation of our national heritage.

Special programs provided at the schools include art and vocal music (K-8), instrumental music (6-8), drama (7-8), and physical education (K-8). Libraries and computer labs are available at all of the schools and before- and after-school day care is available at four of the elementary schools. Honors classes, and after-school sports are offered at the junior high school.

Academic excellence is a priority, as evidenced by the fact that all five elementary schools received the 2010 California Distinguished School Award. Compare Lowell Joint schools to area public or private schools. Parents will see that Lowell Joint schools offer the best educational opportunities.

## Monrovia Unified School District

325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016  
626/471-2000 www.monroviaschools.net

# World-Class Schools and Students



**Dr. Linda Wagner**  
Superintendent

Monrovia Unified School District's vision is clear and measurable: Distinguished Schools – Achieving Students – Graduates Prepared for Life. To date, academic progress has been dramatic. Six schools have achieved status as California Distinguished Schools, six have been designated Achieving Schools by the U.S. Department of Education, and our preschool was named a California State model. Six schools exceed 800 on the Academic Performance Index and all other schools exceed 700. Monrovia has won thirteen Golden Bell Excellence in Education awards from the California School Boards Association. Ninety-six percent of Monrovia's Class of 2010 went on to higher education.

This continued growth of students going on to post-secondary education is attributed to the "College Going Culture" atmosphere at our high schools.

Our District's success is built on partnerships with parents, the City, the Chamber of Commerce, businesses, local colleges, and the greater community. Our many joint projects and programs range from award-winning tutoring (PAT), to student career education (Monrovia Works), to a nutrition program that has gained state-wide recognition, and after-school elementary music programs that are growing by leaps and bounds.

Our parents remain a powerhouse of support. They lead the PTA/PTSA, booster clubs and programs like WatchDOGS (Dads of Great Students). The Monrovia Schools Foundation helps fund our music, science/math, and reading programs, and awards grants to teachers for special projects. Monrovia Reads supports community literacy through our local library and our schools. We salute our nearly 6,000 students and the progress and pride they continue to bring to the Monrovia community.

## Montebello Unified School District

123 S. Montebello Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640  
562/806-7900 www.montebello.k12.ca.us

### Excellence Through Innovation



Cleve Pell



Robert Henke

Interim Superintendents

Montebello Unified School District educates more than 32,000 children in 18 elementary schools, six intermediate schools and four high schools.

At MUSD, we believe in “excellence through innovation.” Characterized by a rigorous curriculum with a variety of academic programs, strong parent involvement and high-quality teachers, the District is recognized locally and statewide for its efforts to ensure success for all students. Daily, the

District works to make certain its students are put on learning paths that result in them graduating college-ready and career-prepared.

MUSD is a top-quality learning institution. We believe it is the combined power of our talented students, our dedicated teachers, our hard-working staff and our caring parents that make this District one of the most outstanding education providers in California. In recent years, MUSD has made tremendous progress in several areas, including our school sites academic improvement, our exceptional graduation and attendance rates and the local and statewide recognition MUSD has received for our efforts to ensure success for all students.

For more information about MUSD, visit our web site at [www.montebello.k12.ca.us](http://www.montebello.k12.ca.us).

## Mountain View School District

3320 Gilman Road, El Monte, CA 91723  
626/652-4000 www.mtvviewschools.com

### Inspiring to Succeed Every Day



Lillian Maldonado French  
Superintendent

In Mountain View our mission is to ensure that each student attains or exceeds academic proficiency. We strive to inspire each student to succeed every day. MVSD is a K-8 district located in El Monte in the San Gabriel Valley. Each day we welcome approximately 8,200 students through the doors of our 10 elementary schools, one intermediate school, one middle school and alternative school. The District also serves the educational needs of approximately 800 preschool students and families through the Head Start State Preschool, Children’s Center, L.A. UP and First 5 School Readiness Programs.

Each member of the District holds themselves accountable for each student becoming academically successful. Our goal is for each MVSD student to become a problem solver, critical thinker, an effective communicator and a positive contributor to their school community.

MVSD is a district that believes in its students through a spirit of commitment, high expectations, teamwork, respect and care. “Team Mountain View” is more than just a slogan. It means that each member of the Mountain View team cares intensely about the children they work with, are passionate about the work they are doing, and provide for students the full commitment of their time and talent.

In Mountain View our students come first and our number one goal continues to be for all students to achieve their highest potential. Team Mountain View is committed to making a significant impact on the students we are privileged to serve.



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## Newhall School District

25375 Orchard Village Road, Valencia, CA 91355  
661/291-4000 www.newhallschooldistrict.net

# High Expectations—Consistent Results



**Dr. Marc Winger**  
Superintendent

Comprised of ten elementary schools and almost 7,000 students, the Newhall School District serves preschool and kindergarten through sixth grade children who reside in Newhall, Valencia, Stevenson Ranch, and Westridge.

Due to the state budget crisis, we have lost over 15% of our income on a per-pupil basis in the last three years and we have been forced to cut over well over \$6 million in expenditures. Like most school districts we have seen class sizes grow, less school days, employee furloughs, layoffs, less purchasing, and reductions in service in every area. Yet the employees of the district maintain their focus on student learning and, in spite of the restrictions that have been placed on us, our schools succeed.

We maintain the highest expectations for students and staff and we are proud of the fact that Newhall's ten elementary schools have consistently received high rankings for achievement.

Four have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools, nine schools have received State Distinguished School status (most have received this honor multiple times), four have received Title I Academic Achievement Award recognition under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and six schools have been named to the California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) Foundation's "Honor Roll" of top achieving schools.

The District also takes great pride in its 30+ year-old music program. Students of all grades are taught vocal music, learn to play the recorder in third grade, and have the opportunity to move on to a robust and vibrant instrumental music program in grades 4-6. Currently about 600 students receive small group lessons on a variety of string, wind, brass and percussion instruments and another 600 participate in a chorus program.

## Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District

12820 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650  
562/868-0431 www.nlmusd.k12.ca.us

# All Roads Lead to Student Achievement



**Dr. Ruth Pérez**  
Superintendent

The Norwalk - La Mirada USD proudly serves approximately 21,000 students of our local communities with broad opportunities for high academic achievement. The district has a long history of offering not only a comprehensive K-12 program, but also of strengthening the communities as a whole through Adult Education, ROP, Career Tech (through a partnership with Cerritos College), Head Start/State Pre-school Program, online learning, tutoring and college prep. We support this range of opportunity with a strong leadership drive to ensure all students have high academic achievement.

The reality is we are in an age of economic uncertainty where severe cutbacks are impacting every district and unfortunately, every classroom. We believe that challenges such as this are not reasons to surrender; they are opportunities to demonstrate excellence. This starts with accountability and through research-based methods; we hold each other and each student accountable for progress.

In 2010, our overall district API scores increased by 28 points, more than twice the amount the State improved. All of our schools met or exceeded their API target scores. Ten schools (8 Elementary and 2 Middle) scored above 800 points, and one elementary school hit the 900 mark. Our district schools and programs have also received the following honors: California School Board Association Golden Bell, Title 1 High Achieving School, California Business for Education Excellence, California Distinguished School and National Blue Ribbon School Awards.

The district provides a strong focus on core academic skills with special attention to Literacy as a top priority. Our children are deserving of high academic achievement and tough economic times may challenge our delivery, but we see it as a moral imperative to ensure our students a high quality educational experience that prepares them for their future. That future will affect their children, their communities and our country.

## Share Your Heart and Your Home by adopting or fostering



Please see  
page 2  
for more  
information.

## Palmdale School District

39139-49 10th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550  
661/947-7191 www.palmdalesd.org

# Educating for Success



**Roger D. Gallizzi**  
Superintendent

The mission of the Palmdale School District is to provide each of our children with a rigorous academic education, a safe learning environment, and the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for success.

Palmdale School District serves the urban and suburban communities of East Palmdale in the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles County's northern most region. With 24 elementary and intermediate schools, 20,000 children receive a quality education focused on student learning. Additionally, the district operates one of the largest preschool programs, servicing over 1,800 pre-schoolers in Head Start, Early Head Start, LA Up, and state preschool.

The district offers a variety of educational programs providing opportunities for innovation and choice for parents and families. In addition to our comprehensive K-6 settings, the district also offers K-8 "schools of choice," including an International Baccalaureate school, two dual immersion schools (English and Spanish 50/50) and an intermediate AVID academy. AVID is also offered district wide, grades 4 through 8. Several intermediate schools are WASC accredited with the remainder on the way. Many of our schools have API scores over 800.

Unique to our elementary district is the SAGE Planetarium a fully staffed planetarium with the latest state of the art equipment offering programs in English and Spanish for standards based science instruction as well as programs open to the community.

It is my pleasure to serve as Superintendent of Schools in what is now my sixth year.

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## Paramount Unified School District

15110 California Avenue, Paramount, CA 90723  
562/602-6000 www.paramount.k12.ca.us

### Ensuring Learning & Success



**Dr. David J. Verdugo**  
Superintendent

Paramount Unified School District is a Kindergarten through 12th grade School District serving the communities of Paramount, Bellflower, Lakewood, Long Beach, and South Gate. We serve nearly 16,000 students.

Our dedicated team of students, parents, teachers, classified employees, administrators and Board members have truly embraced our motto, "Great Things are Happening in Paramount Schools." We have much to celebrate as we are continuing to build a case for reform and excellence across our school District. During the last five years, Paramount has accomplished a great deal to be proud of. For example, among the 47 Unified School

Districts in the Los Angeles County, Paramount has ranked in the top three Districts in terms of API point gains. The average API in K-8 schools has grown from approximately 507 to 767. The Board of Education has had a clear vision of what they want Paramount schools to implement and achieve. That "District Vision" has been achieved through High Quality Instruction, Standards-Aligned Content, Consistency and Coherence in Instructional Practices, High Levels of Achievement for All Students, and Highly Effective Teachers and Learning Leaders.

Paramount USD enjoys much community support, our voters passed a \$100 million facilities bond allowing for a new stadium, library and science building to be built at Paramount High School. In addition, a new "Arts For All" program, Career Technical Education Pathways and a new comprehensive Alternative Education Center has been implemented. We remain dedicated to enhancing the potential in every child.

It is my distinct pleasure to serve as Superintendent of the Paramount Unified School District.

## Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91109  
626/795-6981 www.pusd.us

### Empowering Students



**Edwin Diaz**  
Superintendent

The Pasadena Unified School District serves students from Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre. All schools offer an academically rigorous program in an environment that engages and empowers students to become lifelong learners. PUSD's curriculum is based on the learning standards adopted by the California Department of Education, and designed to encourage the highest level of achievement for every student. Students are guided to become literate, critical thinkers prepared for success in college and careers in a changing world. Our schools Academic Performance Index (API) scores have risen 50 points over the past three years.

PUSD schools offer a range of signature academic programs designed to enrich students' academic experiences, including Dual Language Immersion programs, the International Baccalaureate Program, Middle School Academic Scholars and College and Career Pathways. PUSD also provides early childhood education, full day kindergarten and the Pasadena LEARNs afterschool enrichment program.

Reflecting Pasadena's passion for the arts, visual and performing arts education is a major focus at PUSD schools. PUSD is a designated Arts for All district, offering K-12 arts education including instrumental music, visual arts, digital media, chorus, band, orchestra, drama, dance and more. Annual arts showcases such as the No Boundaries art exhibition and spring music festivals featuring orchestral, vocal and instrumental performances display the emerging artistic and musical talents of K-12 students.

PUSD schools have received numerous awards including: A Blue Ribbon School, Title I Achieving Schools, California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll Schools, *Newsweek Magazine*, Top 300 Schools in the Nation, and *U.S. News and World Report* Silver Medalist High School, among many others.

## Pomona Unified School District

800 S. Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91766  
909/397-4800 www.pusd.org

### Reaching, Teaching, and Learning



**Richard L. Martinez**  
Superintendent

Imagine a school where meeting the needs of students is everyone's mission; where each student makes a personal connection with a caring adult; where teaching is individualized so that no one gets left behind; and where each student gains a deep understanding of key concepts.

That's what happens at America's best schools, and that's what we want for each of our students at Pomona schools, based on our three core values of Respect, Responsibility, and Results.

Guided by those values, our goal at Pomona Unified is Reaching, Teaching, and Learning for each student to provide them a wide variety of options for success.

Just think of it as outstanding customer service in the classroom.

"Reaching" means first connecting with each student. We reach out on a personal level, help them understand that we care about them as individuals, and prepare them to succeed.

Next comes "Teaching." We teach responsively, which means combining excellent interactive instruction with careful analysis of student-achievement data. That way we know who's having trouble understanding, and when and how best to respond so that each student understands and no one gets left behind. Because the best intervention happens right there in the classroom, not long after the fact.

The result is true "Learning." It's not enough for students just to know facts. We do whatever it takes to help each student fully understand and be able to use key concepts.

Reaching, Teaching, and Learning is helping us transform education at Pomona Unified School District.

## Redondo Beach Unified School District

1401 Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
310/379-5449 www.rbusd.org

### Continued Forward Progress



**Dr. Steven E. Keller**  
Superintendent

Redondo Beach Unified School District consists of eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, one continuation school, one community day school, one adult school, and a district-wide child development center. The district serves more than 8,000 students. Currently, our schools are undergoing comprehensive modernization utilizing the \$145 million advancement bond passed by our citizens. RBUSD desires to jump to greatness by becoming the mark of distinction for public education in the beach cities.

Continued forward progress has been the focal point for the Board of Education, the administration, and the staff. Establishing data-driven educational programs, careful utilization of resources, and enhanced community and city relationships have secured a stronger commitment to better serving students. RBUSD has also created community-focused programs, such as the Safe School Ambassador Program, Energy Education, Redondo Beach Learning Academy (CDS), US Dept of Education Three-Year Counselor Grant, and a new Special Education Transition program. Too, our new facilities are likely to continue this outreach into our city and wider community. The whole child's needs—socially, academically, emotionally, and physically—are the centerpiece for success at RBSUD.

Redondo Beach Unified is just that, unified. Students, parents, and staff model schooling and learning that is collaborative, rigorous, and transformational. We are proud of our excellent PTA and the resurgence of our Education Foundation; these groups assist the district with providing a sound educational program. The culture of our district does not embrace the status quo, but rather reaches for what tomorrow's learning may bring to us all. Redondo is indeed GREAT.

## Rosemead School District

3907 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, CA 91770  
310/312-2900 www.rosemead.k12.ca.us

# Preparing Future Global Leaders



**Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez**  
Superintendent

The Rosemead School District has adopted the 7 Habits Leader in Me program at each of its schools. This process helps develop the essential life skills and characteristics students will need in order to thrive in the 21st century workforce.

Dr. Steven R. Covey's principle-based leadership skills are well known by adults and the business community. During the past 4 years, our Leader in Me program has been developed and integrated into our school's core curriculum.

The program creates a common language within our community of learners (students, educators and parents alike). Built on proven principle-based leadership skills found in the book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, our students are learning:

Habit 1: Be Proactive® • You're in Charge

Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind® • Have a Plan

Habit 3: Put First Things First® • Work First, Then Play

Habit 4: Think Win-Win® • Everyone Can Win

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood® • Listen Before You Talk

Habit 6: Synergize® • Together Is Better

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw® • Balance Feels Best

The Janson Lighthouse Leadership team invites you to come and see how the 7 Habits and 21st century skills are being integrated and implemented in our elementary classrooms.

SAVE THE DATE! Come and see what we are doing to educate our children for the 21st century workplace on April 19, 2011.

For more information, please visit our Leader in Me registration site at [www.rosemead.k12.ca.us](http://www.rosemead.k12.ca.us) A minimal registration fee covers the cost of materials, refreshments and lunch. I hope to see you there.

## Rowland Unified School District

1830 Nogales Street, Rowland Heights, CA 91748  
626/965-2541 www.rowlandschools.org

# Raves About Rowland



**Dr. Maria G. Ott**  
Superintendent

Rowland Unified School District (RUSD) is proud to be one of the premiere districts of the San Gabriel Valley. Rowland Heights was named in 2011 as "The Best, Affordable Place to Raise Kids in California" by *Bloomberg Businessweek*. We offer families quality schools, teachers, programs and a caring culture that enables students to become global thinkers and leaders.

We are proud of our four National Blue Ribbon Schools and 17 California Distinguished Schools.

We provide innovative programs and support for each student's personal and academic success:

- One of the Top High Schools in the Nation: Rowland High School named by *U.S. News & World Report* 2011 & 2010.
- International Baccalaureate Schools: Both Nogales and Rowland High Schools offer the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) and dynamic Career Certification programs.
- IB Primary Years Programme Candidate Schools: Both Oswalt & Ybarra K-8 Academies are Candidate IB PYP Schools.
- Apple 1 to 1 Laptop Learning Program: The Apple Laptop Learning Program has expanded to Giano Intermediate and Nogales High School. Oswalt Academy was named for the second year in a row as a 2011 "Apple Distinguished School." All students and teachers in 5th-8th grades use an Apple MacBook laptop computer for 24/7 access. Students in grades K-4 use iPod Touches. Teachers and students are constantly connected and enormous student academic growth has taken place.
- Committed to the Arts K - 12: RUSD is the only District in the SGV area to provide elementary strings, jazz and marching band.

## San Gabriel Unified School District

408 Juipero Serra Dr., San Gabriel, CA 91776  
626/451-5400 www.sgusd.k12.ca.us

# District is Responsible & Responsive



**Dr. Susan C. Parks**  
Superintendent

San Gabriel USD is one reason that the City of San Gabriel is a great place to live, work and attend school. Please meet our eight fine schools:

**Gabrielino High School** is the crown jewel of the district. A California Distinguished High School, GHS for the third straight year, was named in the *U.S. News and World Report* as a Silver Medal School placing it among the top 6% of high schools in the nation. GHS soaring Eagles serve the community with thousands of volunteer hours.

**Del Mar**, our Continuation High School, serves students who thrive in alternative settings. Del Mar is a small, accredited high school with a personal touch "Where Second Chances Happen," with volunteers who provide service throughout the community.

**Jefferson Middle School** is a vibrant middle school campus and community. As our only middle school, JMS is the center of activity where students start to envision college and life plans.

**Five Great Elementary Schools round out our District:** Wilson, Washington, Roosevelt, McKinley and Coolidge. Each serves as a traditional neighborhood school that reflects and celebrates the rich diversity of our city.

This is an excellent school district with employees who care deeply about all students. Although we currently face extraordinary financial challenges, I will state emphatically that San Gabriel USD has been and will continue to be a well-managed district with a very responsible and responsive Governing Board. We are doing our part to keep San Gabriel a great place to live, work and attend school.

## San Marino Unified School District

1665 West Drive, San Marino, CA 91108  
626/299-7000 www.san-marino.k12.ca.us

# Consistent High Academic Rankings



**Dr. Gary W. Woods**  
Superintendent

With a 2010 district API of 949, SMUSD consistently enjoys one of the highest academic rankings in the State. These successes are a result of many groups and individuals, including our outstanding classified and certificated staff members, our administrators, our students and their parents, and our committed community partners.

The following is a partial list of the most recent awards and recognitions our schools have earned over the past few years. As you will see, the list is impressive.

Carver Elementary School: 2004 California Distinguished Schools Award; 2005 NCLB Blue Ribbon Schools Award; 2005-09 California Business for Educational Excellence Award; 2007-09

Top API Elementary School – LA County

Valentine Elementary School: Top 60 Schools in LA County - Los Angeles Magazine (twice); 2004 California Distinguished Schools Award; 2005-09 California Business for Educational Excellence Award; 2006 California Department of Education Competitive Grant for School Gardening Project; 2008 LA Music Center BRAVO Award for Visual Arts Program

Huntington Middle School: 2005, 2009 California Distinguished School Award; 2006 LA Music Center Bravo Award Runner Up; 2005-08 California Business for Educational Excellence Award; 1999-2010 Top API Middle School – LA County

San Marino High School: 2005 California Distinguished School; 2005-09 California Business for Educational Excellence Award; 2006 NCLB National Blue Ribbon Schools Award; 2007 LA Music Center BRAVO Award – High School VAPA Program; 2007 *U.S. News and World Report* Gold Medal School High School (#82 in nation); 2007 Top API "non-magnet" High School – LA County; 2008-09 California State Speech and Debate Team Champions

# IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Getting the adolescent whooping cough shot now will not only help protect your child against the ongoing threat of whooping cough but will also meet the new school requirement.



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California. Many students have had to miss school because they were sick.



To help protect your children and others from whooping cough, a new California law now requires students to be vaccinated against whooping cough.

- **For the 2011 – 12 school year only, all students entering 7th through 12th grades** will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.
- **Thereafter, in future school years, only students entering 7th grade** will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.

**By law, students who do not have proof of receiving a Tdap booster shot will not be able to start school until proof is provided to the school.** (The tetanus-diphtheria booster shot, Td, will not meet the requirement.)

We want to make sure your child starts school on time. Parents are urged to:

- **Get your child's Tdap shot now**  
A large number of students need a Tdap shot between now and the start of school next year. Make an appointment with your child's doctor or clinic for your child to get a Tdap booster shot now. Avoid the back-to-school rush.



- **Save your proof of immunization**  
Be sure to keep the written proof of your child's Tdap booster shot in a safe place. Your child will need to provide proof of immunization in order to start school.



- **Submit your proof of immunization**  
Be sure to give a copy of your Tdap booster shot to the school health office before the last day of school.

## Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404  
310/450-8338 www.smmusd.org

### A Community of Learners



**Tim Cuneo**  
Superintendent

The mission and focus of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) is extraordinary achievement for all students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap. As a community of learners, our district works together in a nurturing environment to help students be visionary, versatile thinkers; resourceful, life-long learners; effective, multi-lingual communicators and global citizens. We are a richly varied community that values the contributions of all its members. We exist to prepare all students in their pursuit of academic achievement and personal health and to support and encourage them in their development of intellectual, artistic, technological, physical and social expression.

Our districtwide base API has increased every year for the past five years and continuously exceeds the 800 mark, we employ sixty-one National Board Certified Teachers, 92% of our tenth-graders passed the CAHSEE on their first attempt, our Title I schools are making impressive gains, and we have two National Blue Ribbon schools and several CA Distinguished schools.

SMMUSD's exceptional music program boasts a 50% participation rate among district students. SMMUSD is considered one of the nation's top districts due to the dedication of our educators and the achievements of our students. SMMUSD consists of eleven elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools, one continuation high school, adult education, and many early child development programs. Enrollment for the 2010-11 school year is approximately 11,585 students.

## South Pasadena Unified School District

1020 El Centro Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030  
626/441-5800 www.spusd.net

### Challenging All Students



**Joel Shapiro**  
Superintendent

In South Pasadena, we are driven by our district's vision to help all students reach their full potential. We are proud of our academic success. Our District API has increased steadily to the current growth API of 911, and most of our schools have API's over 900. One of our strategic plan focus goals is to close the achievement gap, bringing about greater achievement for Hispanic students and Students with Disabilities. Our efforts in this area are paying off.

While helping students to master our state standards, we're also focused on the future. Twenty-first century global citizenship requires a complex set of skills that will enable

individuals to adapt and become successful in a rapidly changing world. We are committed to developing students who think critically and solve problems; know how to access and analyze information; are creative and innovative; collaborate well in a team environment; are effective communicators, able to use a variety of media to enhance oral and written communication; and demonstrate initiative, imagination, and curiosity. These skills and habits of mind are essential for success, and they are at the core of our thinking-centered curriculum. We emphasize learning experiences that combine rigorous content with the opportunity to apply knowledge to solve real-world problems. We also emphasize connections between ideas, helping students to see how various concepts are related.

Another key focus is responsibility — having students take responsibility for their learning, for their actions, for the environment, and for the society that they will shape as adults.

## Saugus Union School District

24930 Avenue Stanford, Santa Clarita, CA 91355  
661/294-5300 www.saugus.k12.ca.us

### Facing Challenges, Defining Opportunities



**Dr. Judy Fish**  
Superintendent

Public Education is at a crossroads. Never before have we been so challenged by claims that the public schools are failing to meet the needs of all students. Never before have we experienced such cuts to the very programs designed to meet the needs of our students. We have two choices. We can wring our hands and talk about the terrible things that are being done to us, or we can take charge of that over which we have control, educate our communities on the great programs we continue to offer and look for new opportunities to develop exciting alternative programs. We have 15 schools, five are National Blue Ribbon schools and all but our two newest schools are California Distinguished schools.

In our district, we talk about "The Saugus Way." Everyone understands that means setting high standards and working together with mutual respect at every level to achieve academic and personal success for every child. As we deal with unprecedented economic challenges and budget cuts, the phrase "working together" takes on new meaning. How we treat one another becomes paramount when dealing with sensitive issues. We define ourselves individually and collectively by how we behave in times of adversity.

In response to parent interest and rigorous standards, all of our schools now offer full day kindergarten. Each of our 15 schools continues to define and market its unique culture and programs. We are completing our first year at West Creek Academy, an open enrollment school with a focus on music and the performing arts and a partnership with California Institute of the Arts. Through music, a universal language, we are making connections to other countries, classrooms and students around the world. All of our schools are entering into similar unique partnerships that enhance their programs.

## South Whittier School District

10120 South Painter, Whittier, CA 90605  
562/944-6231 www.swhittier.k12.ca.us

### Success for Every Student



**Dr. Erich Kwek**  
Superintendent

The South Whittier School District has been in existence for almost 100 years and has developed a reputation for excellence. We work very hard to live up to this reputation and our efforts receive strong support from parents and the community. This is demonstrated by the many generations of families that have gone through our schools and their strong commitment and support for maintaining our tradition of excellence.

South Whittier School District is committed to a standards based curriculum while also educating the whole child. All schools have made excellent progress in meeting academic standards set by the state, and they also provide an opportunity for students to develop individual skills and talents.

The mission of South Whittier School District is to prepare every student for success in high school and beyond by focusing on the core academic subjects in an effective and integrated curriculum. We believe:

- students learn best when they are engaged in challenging and appropriate learning focused on the core academic subjects of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies integrated with physical education and the fine arts.
- quality teachers are the single greatest predictor of student success. in respecting the diversity and uniqueness of each student.
- students learn best when families value education, and teach their children to accept increasing responsibility for their own learning.
- quality education improves the quality of life for students, their families, and the community now and in the future.

In the South Whittier School District we are achieving our mission, upholding our beliefs and living up to our motto of success for every student.

## Temple City Unified School District

9700 Las Tunas Drive, Temple City, CA 91780  
626/548-5000 www.tusd.net

### Award Winning School District



**Dr. Chelsea Kang-Smith**  
Superintendent

Temple City Unified School District provides a rigorous comprehensive education in a safe environment. Our commitment is to serve our community by modeling honesty and integrity; our passion is grounded in the knowledge that all students can succeed and be self-reliant, lifelong learners. We respect diversity in everyone through cultural and individual awareness.

In 2010, TCUSD was named the District of the Year for the Los Angeles region, receiving the Spotlight Award from the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness. Bloomberg Businessweek reported Temple City as runner-up for the best city to raise children in California. In 2011, the Center for American Progress reported TCUSD is 1 of 17 districts in California to

fall into the highest productivity category in measuring academic achievement relative to spending. TCUSD maximizes student achievement in the midst of a State budget crisis.

Cloverly, Emperor, La Rosa, and Longden Elementary School students attend Oak Avenue Intermediate School and Temple City High School. The Dr. Doug Sears Learning Center offers educational opportunities for students benefitting from alternative learning.

TCUSD continues excellence in the California Department of Education's Academic Performance Index, scoring 885 in 2010. Emperor and La Rosa were named 2010 California Distinguished Schools. TCHS is eligible and has applied for a 2011 California Distinguished School Award. TCUSD has high academic and extracurricular expectations for students. TCHS received the 2010 Silver Award from *U.S. News and World Report* as one of America's best high schools. Students excel in sports, music, and the arts. Strong character education programs build a positive family environment. TCUSD works in open collaboration so students become contributors and leaders of the future.

## Valle Lindo School District

1431 N. Central Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733  
626/580-0610 www.vallelindo.k12.ca.us

### A Place of Award-Winning Schools



**Dr. Mary Louise Labrucherie**  
Superintendent

Valle Lindo School District has been hailed as the "best kept secret in the state" and "a peach of a district" by program quality reviewers and auditors. We invite you to visit our schools and tour our historical schoolhouse, botanical gardens, and engaging classrooms. Established in 1863, this District of two schools is the third oldest district in the state, rich in history and accomplishments. Dean L. Shively Middle School and New Temple Elementary School have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools, and both schools have earned Title I Academic Achievement Awards.

The District has been honored by the California School Boards Association with two Golden Bell Awards. One award was for an 8-Step Instructional Process whereby teachers use multiple assessment data to construct a 36-week instructional calendar. Teachers meet weekly by grade level to monitor instructional calendar progress. The second Golden Bell Award was for the District's Character Education Program which includes service learning projects at all grade levels.

Active student government, athletics, and music programs complement our rigorous award-winning academic programs. Focus on technology and science has resulted in an 82% student proficiency rate in science. All of these activities serve to promote our District mission that all students are empowered to be challenged academically, physically fit, socially responsible, and culturally sensitive.

## Torrance Unified School District

2335 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, CA 90501  
310/972-6500 www.tusd.org

### Excelling in Tough Times



**Dr. George Mannon**  
Superintendent

The Torrance Unified School District is nestled in the heart of the South Bay, minutes from the expansive Pacific Ocean coastline. Our mission is to maximize individual potential in students in order to develop lifelong learners who will become contributing members in a global society. The District's 32 schools educate 25,000 students who speak 83 different languages.

TUSD is fortunate to have a group of dedicated, passionate, and innovative teachers. Even during difficult budgetary years they continue to provide our students with creative and valuable educational experiences. The District's Academic Performance Index (API) increased ten points this year to 853. TUSD students

have continued to demonstrate growth in English and Math proficiencies, ACT and SAT scores, and STAR test results. Additionally, TUSD students consistently achieve results significantly higher than state averages. I am proud of the exceptional job our teachers, classified employees, and administrators do for our students.

TUSD students are equally exceptional in their academic, athletic, and extracurricular achievements. Once again, our high schools' Academic Decathlon teams took top honors in the L.A. County Decathlon competitions, with all four high schools in the top five. TUSD students go on to attend universities like USC, the UC's, and many are accepted to the Ivy League schools.

Educating children is a collaboration that is greatly benefited by parental and community involvement. Thank you to the teachers, staff, parents, and community leaders that contribute to making TUSD an award-winning District!

## Walnut Valley Unified School District

880 South Lemon Avenue, Walnut, CA 91789  
909/595-1261 www.wvusd.k12.ca.us

### Kids First—Every Student, Every Day



**Dr. Dean Conklin**  
Superintendent

The Walnut Valley Unified School District is known for academic achievement, innovation, and leadership. Our outstanding teachers and staff are genuinely committed to the success of the whole child, putting "Kids First...Every Student, Every Day."

We appreciate the support from our Walnut Valley community. Each year, parents and community members volunteer countless hours and donate a variety of resources to enrich the educational experience of our students.

Construction projects are now underway in our schools, made possible by voter approval of Bond Measures S and Y. Our students will benefit from innovative technology, improved classrooms and campuses, and new sports and performing arts facilities.

Walnut Valley students consistently receive high scores on standardized testing and achieve high honors in academic competitions. Every school exceeds the state's target of 800 on the Academic Performance Index, with 10 schools scoring over 900!

Walnut Valley schools have been recognized with top state and national awards as California Distinguished and U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools. Five Elementary Schools were named 2010 CA Distinguished Schools. Walnut Valley schools have also been awarded prestigious Golden Bell Awards for innovative classroom programs by the California School Boards Association. Both Walnut and Diamond Bar High Schools have been honored as two of the best International Baccalaureate Schools in America by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Walnut Valley's Blueprint for Excellence is the foundation that guides our every action. The heart of the Blueprint is "Kids First...Every Student, Every Day" and our students' successes are the result.

## West Covina Unified School District

1717 W. Merced Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790  
626/939-4600 www.wcusd.org

### The Spirit of Continuous Improvement



**Liliam Leis-Castillo**  
Superintendent

The West Covina Unified School District provides equity and academic excellence for approximately 14,000 students in eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one intermediate school, one K-8 charter school, one K-12 “virtual” charter school, our three high schools have distinctly different programs allowing students and parents to choose a program that meets the needs and interests of each child. Our District’s goal is for each student to acquire the necessary skills to be successful in the 21st Century, to be life-long learners and demonstrate responsible citizenship. Though we enjoy the academic success of our schools and students we are not satisfied—we know we

will improve our programs and student achievement as we constantly review each program and implement programs that will benefit children.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, we continually strive to promote best teaching practices and professional standards as the basis for continuous professional growth and improvement in instruction and student achievement. We offer additional options to our school community. At the secondary level, we are pleased to announce that our newest small high school, Edgewood High School, is now an (IB) International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme candidate school. At the elementary level, we have reconfigured Wescove Elementary School as a Primary Center with instructional programs specifically tailored to meet the needs of students in Kindergarten through second grade. Parents can expect that the District will provide each of our students with personalized educational programs that encourage high standards in a student-centered environment.

## Whittier City School District

7211 S. Whittier Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602  
562/789-3075 www.whittiercity.k12.ca.us

### Commitment to Quality Instruction



**Dr. Ron Carruth**  
Superintendent

Whittier City School District’s motto, “Students First, Every Decision, Every Day” signifies our commitment to providing our students with the greatest opportunities for success. Our Curriculum Improvement Teams, made up of teachers and administrators, work together to examine and improve upon our current practices in Mathematics, Writing, Assessment and Collaboration, RTI and ELD. This allows teachers to take an active role in developing the District practices that will best support our students.

We know that we cannot meet the needs our students without a commitment to high quality classroom instruction.

The “Equal M” Math Grant, our collaborative effort with

California State University, Dominguez Hills, provides a summer Math Institutes for teachers, coupled with classroom coaching. The District SEARCH Science Program, for which we were recently awarded the Golden Bell Award, provides coaching and professional development for teachers in how to engage students in the scientific inquiry process. This coming summer, we will offer a weeklong Professional Communities Institute for all teachers.

We believe that student success also includes attention to their emotional and physical health. This year WCSD was one of 16 districts nationwide that was awarded a Mental Health Grant, which will allow us to partner with current community resources for our families. Furthermore, as recent recipients of the Carol B. White PEP Grant, staff will be able to offer excellent physical education programs for our students. Finally, our district-wide “Reach for the Stars” After School program offers enrichment opportunities including art, music and drama. Whittier City School District is proud of our programs and our outstanding teachers and staff.

## Westside Union School District

41914 N. 50th Street West, Quartz Hill, CA 93536  
661/722-0716 www.westside.k12.ca.us

### Pointing the Way, Providing the Path



**Regina L. Rossall**  
Superintendent

Three of our schools were recently named California Distinguished Schools, Anaverde Hills, Rancho Vista, and Valley View. Our academic program continues to be rigorous resulting in API scores over 800 districtwide and at nine of the eleven district schools. Currently one school is under construction, another continues in the planning stage. There are 7 schools serving K-6th grade, 2 K-8 schools, and 2 7-8 schools. In addition, parents seeking a home school setting are served through our K-8 Mountain School Program.

Our strong academic programs in middle school are supported by a wide range of electives including woodshop, home arts, art, instrumental music, computers, broadcast journalism, to name a few. There are opportunities to participate in the Civil Air Patrol program, and other leadership training programs.

During this past school year, the District led a community wide effort to end bullying. We partnered with the City of Lancaster for an entire week community wide dedicated to stopping bullying in our town. The partnership of the City and four school districts had a major impact on this issue, which has been continuing focus throughout our nation.

The District continues to receive community support for extracurricular and academic programs from community partners such as the WAVE, SAVE, Rotary and Kiwanis. Through the generosity of these partners, our middle school sports program, AVID, ballroom dance, children’s musical theater, career orientated field trips, and many others have been available to our students.

Our District motto is “Pointing the Way, Providing the Path,” and everyday our staff endeavors to create the environment that sets our students on the path for success. We are proud to serve the western Antelope Valley.

## Whittier Union High School District

9401 S. Painter Avenue, Whittier, CA 90605  
562/698-8121 www.wuhisd.k12.ca.us

### Whatever It Takes



**Sandra Thorstenson**  
Superintendent

At Whittier Union, we are deepening our efforts to take our “Whatever It Takes” initiative to the next level and recently received a \$500,000 federal grant to increase our students’ readiness for college and careers that will assist us in this endeavor.

Our District serves 13,680 students at five comprehensive high schools, a continuation school, an independent study program and an adult school with more than 10,000 students.

Our latest student achievement data show that we continue to make strides in our California State Academic Performance Index (API) and other measures of student success. The District’s overall API has increased steadily, with a gain of 143

points in the last six years. This is a remarkable increase for any school district, but especially for a high school district with a high percentage of socio-economically disadvantaged students such as ours. Nearly 100% of our seniors pass the CAHSEE, 44% are completing all courses required for college entrance, and 82% are going on to higher education.

We know that this has been made possible through the dedicated efforts of all Whittier Union teachers, staff and administrators who continue to work collaboratively to build on the foundation of reform that we began eight years ago.

Through this initiative, high-functioning Professional Learning Communities implement common assessments for the purpose of improving instructional practice and a Pyramid of Interventions provides targeted student support that is required, not invited. Each school has also implemented an alternative block schedule that provides embedded support during class time. Student success has soared!

## William S. Hart Union High School District

21515 Centre Pointe Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350  
661/259-0033 www.hartdistrict.org

# Community Outreach Campaign



**Robert Challinor**  
Superintendent

The Wm. S. Hart Union High School District has launched a multi-faceted community outreach campaign, to encourage families to explore what we have to offer in comparison to private, charter and home school programs, which are gaining in popularity. Plans for campus tours, local advertising, increased PR, alumni testimonial campaigns, direct mail, social networking and other marketing programs will promote the District in an effort to retain students and minimize the effects of declining enrollment.

Our communications will highlight many aspects of our successful programming: From a full schedule of AP / Honors classes and a wide range of electives to award-winning sports, music, and performing arts programs, we offer a student more choices and opportunities to succeed in school.

The Hart School District is a high-achieving 7-12 district in northern Los Angeles County with just under 23,000 students. The district currently has 12 comprehensive junior and senior high schools, a model continuation school, a middle college high school currently ranked among the top 10 percent in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, an independent study school, an adult school and a charter school serving students with special needs.

The District's Academic Performance Index hit a record 824 in 2010 and 11 of the District's 16 schools also exceeded the state goal of 800 API, with two schools reaching over 900.

Like all California school districts, we face financial challenges, but our focus remains on student achievement and development of the whole student, while community outreach efforts serve to ensure local families choose their local traditional public school district for their students' education.

## Wiseburn School District

13530 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250  
310/643-3025 www.wiseburn.k12.ca.us

# 115 Years of Excellence in Education



**Dr. Tom Johnstone**  
Superintendent

Excellence in education has been our motto and our way of life since 1896! With approximately 2,500 students and four schools, the Wiseburn School District is one of the few remaining small school districts in Los Angeles County. Diversity, with balance, is one of Wiseburn's greatest strengths in preparing graduates for life in the Southern California's future. Being both small and suburban, Wiseburn offers a unique combination of a "family atmosphere" in an opportunity-rich setting.

There is a well deserved reputation for educational excellence within the Wiseburn School District. Parents and the community perceive the District as successfully offering a personalized

learning process focused on mastery of the basic skills in a positive, safe, and orderly learning environment. Staff members are highly committed and students achieve. All schools continue to meet API/AYP targets.

To complement the strong academic tradition, Wiseburn is an Arts for All District! Since 2006, this Los Angeles County-wide initiative has been dedicated to providing high quality arts education for every public school student. We believe that the arts are a vital and indispensable part of the comprehensive education of every student.

In August 2009, Wiseburn opened two K-12 Charter Schools, Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design, to offer Wiseburn families a high school option for the first time in our 115-year history. The Da Vinci Schools excel academically using project-based learning and strong support from the local aerospace corporations.

In a crowning achievement, the Wiseburn community approved an \$87 million school construction bond in November 2010 to build a Wiseburn High School. This is the first time in California history that an elementary school district has passed a bond to build a high school.

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## The Kid's Guide to Service Projects



Kate Karp

The title of this wonderfully helpful resource is directed at children, but Barbara A. Lewis's *Kid's Guide to Service Projects*, Free Spirit Publishing, 1995, is a volunteer guide for any age. The more than 500 suggested projects, ranging in difficulty from caring for a neighbor's pet to getting state laws and city ordinances passed, will appeal to anyone who want to make a difference and earn breathing space on the planet. The projects, all worthy, are described simply and clearly enough to encourage any aspiring humanitarian.

The projects focus on human and animal welfare, community development and safety, the environment, literacy and politics, further divided into 10 categories. In the introduction, Lewis gives short shrift to anyone's claims of not having enough time or that the goals are too involved for any one person to attempt. Instead, she maps out projects for every passion, and invites the reader to send her anything that she hasn't thought of. She then provides a template of 10 steps to make any effort a successful one; gives handy how-tos for pesky paperwork tasks such as creating fliers, writing petitions and press releases, and lobbying for a cause; and suggest seven ways to raise funds.

Anyone who wants to be proactive in solving problems for the community, either local or at large, will find frequent use for *The Kid's Guide*. It will be particularly helpful in the service requirement for graduation from high school; and families, youth and religious organizations, and classroom teachers will all find something to forward worthy efforts. Most of all, lone individuals who feel the need to take action on a problem but may be overwhelmed by the details will be happy to find that Lewis has done the initial organization for them. And that in itself is a great service.

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

## Volunteerism: Good for the Mind & Heart



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about trades, people and being selfless. In a busy world of "pursuit of personal happiness," too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

### Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- **Learning:** Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- **Networking:** Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- **Building the Résumé:** Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- **Personal Growth:** As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Dr. Shari is the founder of the "Brainpower" program for schools, Author of *The Learning Toolbox - Memory Skills for Everyone* used in schools nationwide, *Inspiring the Love of Learning* and *The Algebra Toolbox - The UN MATH Solution.* Dr. Shari is a syndicated columnist, radio host and author of over 200 articles on the topics of Learning and Memory. Contact Dr. Shari at [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com). [www.doctorshari.com](http://www.doctorshari.com).

# String Instruments Word Search Contest

**NEW 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 is the word you email to: [contest@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:contest@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put "LASuper" in the subject line)

**Entries must be received by May 15, 2011**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Balalaika	Guitar	Sitar
Banjo	Harp	Ukulele
Bass Viol	Harpsichord	Viola
Cello	Lute	Violin
Clavichord	Lyre	Zither
Contrabass	Mandolin	
Dulcimer	Piano	

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[www.walkwithsally.org](http://www.walkwithsally.org)

# McGraw-Hill Education Congratulates California School Districts Using *California Treasures* for Outstanding Reading Achievement

“ After implementing McGraw-Hill’s *California Treasures* program in the 2009-2010 school year, elementary school students (Grades 2-5) across 15 California school districts have shown measurable growth on their 2010 Academic Performance Index (API) and STAR results, outperforming students across the state on California Standards Tests in the subject of English Language Arts.

The average increase of English Learners using *California Treasures* testing as “proficient or advanced” outperformed the state average by approximately five-to-one during year 1 of implementation as indicated on STAR results. Additionally, English Learners using *California Treasures* experienced significant gains, demonstrating an average API Growth increase of 27 points, versus the state’s average growth improvement of 15 points. Continuing to make substantial progress with their reading and language arts initiatives, districts that adopted *California Treasures* surpassed the state-wide Growth API by two-to-one for all learners, boasting a 26 point average increase as compared to the state’s 13 point average increase. “We applaud the continued improvements in school districts across the state of California using *California Treasures*, a Common Core California Standards Curriculum,” said Tom DeWitt, regional vice president of McGraw-Hill’s School Education Group. “Noticeable gains on test scores and Academic Performance Index results that surpass those of the entire state confirm our commitment to preparing students for future reading and academic success through a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum. We continue to look forward to providing a tool to districts that supports their overall Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives.” *California Treasures*, a research-based K-6 comprehensive reading language arts program, couples high-quality literature with guided instruction, ample practice, writing support and classroom management resources. The program was developed to meet California state standards, and reflects the extensive input from California teachers.

- SAN FRANCISCO, January 6, 2011

California  
Treasures



Education

