

FREE

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

## Superintendents



K – 12 Public Schools  
2019 – 2020

3rd  
Edition

# Building & Enhancing the Future of Learners & Leaders

A well planned and executed educational facility promotes high-quality social, educational, and recreational behaviors and enhances the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities alike.

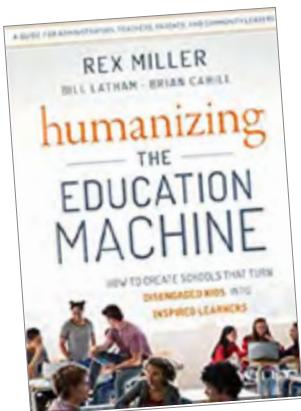
Our vision at Balfour Beatty Construction is to transform K12 campuses - not only by building schools - but through reimagining the future of learning in the built environment. As the nation's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest educational builder, we joined the K12 MindShift project to introduce one of the most respected educational books of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: *Humanizing the Education Machine: How to Create Schools that Turn Disengaged Kids into Inspired Leaders*.

Balfour Beatty is beyond a builder. Our projects extend past bricks and mortar - we're building the future.

## Balfour Beatty



LA QUINTA MIDDLE SCHOOL MODERNIZATION, DESERT SANDS USD



Contact us today to learn how we can help guide you in building your district's 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environment and request a free copy of one of the most innovative books in education - *Humanizing the Education Machine*.

\*limit one copy per school

[balfourbeattyus.com](http://balfourbeattyus.com)



Layne Arthur, Vice President  
e. larthur@balfourbeattyus.com  
p. 951-462-7703



John Bernardy, Senior Vice President  
e. jbernardy@balfourbeattyus.com  
p. 949-502-4000

## Riverside County Office of Education

3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA 92501 • 951/826.6670 • [www.rcoe.us](http://www.rcoe.us)

### Making Schools Safer, Stronger, and Better with One Million Deliberate Acts of Kindness



**Dr. Judy D. White**  
County Superintendent of Schools

The Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) initiated the One Million Deliberate Acts of Kindness campaign to support a positive school culture and healthy communities throughout Riverside County. We are asking the community for your collective passion and commitment to increase student academic achievement through kindness and support.

Multiple schools throughout Riverside County focus on kindness through programs that encourage students and staff to serve others. The Million Deliberate Acts of Kindness initiative amplifies best practices across districts and introduces new opportunities to incorporate kindhearted activities into classrooms and campuses.

It seems there are good reasons why we can't get enough of those addictive, feel-good emotions, as scientific studies prove there are many physical, emotional, and mental health benefits associated with kindness.

As minds and bodies grow, it's abundantly clear that children require a healthy dose of kindness to thrive as healthy, happy, well-rounded individuals. Patty O'Grady, PhD, an expert in neuroscience, emotional learning, and positive psychology, specializes in education.

She states, "Kindness changes the brain by the experience of kindness. Children and adolescents do not learn kindness by only thinking about it and talking about it. Kindness is best learned by feeling it so that they can reproduce it."

A great number of benefits have been reported to support teaching kindness in schools, best summed up by the following: happy, caring children; greater sense of belonging and improved self-esteem; improved health and less stress, better concentration and improved results, and less bullying.

Many traditional anti-bullying programs focus on the negative actions that cause anxiety in children. When students are instead taught how to change their thoughts and actions by learning about kindness and compassion, it fosters the positive behavior that's expected and naturally rewarded with friendship. Promoting its psychological opposite is key in reducing bullying to create warm and inclusive school environments.

Studies in social-emotional learning show that the most successful "kindness strategies" are short and focused, rooted in relationships, carried out repeatedly, and related to actual events in school. It's also important to share your deeds and RCOE has created a website for students, staff, and community members to log their efforts in the journey to achieve one million acts of kindness ([rcoe.us/kindness](http://rcoe.us/kindness)). There is also a social media hashtag #KindnessRivCo to influence others to share their acts of kindness.

Kindness is a simple concept, yet so very impactful. It can make the world a better place by ending suffering at the hands of war, hunger, human rights violations, and injustice. It has the power to drastically improve our own well-being as well as that of our families, friends, acquaintances, and strangers. The very act of expressing graciousness to one another can make us more empathetic of other people's hardships.

Within the school setting, kindness towards one another can inspire students and staff to be more productive and increase academic and social emotional growth. And within our communities, kindness contributes to safer and cleaner schools and neighborhoods.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



This is our 3rd edition highlighting each of the district superintendents in the Riverside County K-12 public schools. Our mission is to introduce each superintendent with their brief message to encourage you to visit their individual web sites for indepth information.

The quality of the public schools in a community sets the standard for the quality of the community. Everyone pays for public education and is a stakeholder. The Riverside County communities have much to be proud of.

Thank you for your interest in public education.

## School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**3rd Annual Edition**  
Covering the  
Riverside County  
Public Schools K-12  
Superintendents

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

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**

Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

**NETRAGREDNIK CARTOONIST:** Neta Madison

**ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193  
Email or call to reserve your advertisement space in the 2020-2021 4th Edition.  
Deadline December 15, 2019



@SchoolNewsRC

SchoolNewsRollCall



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC  
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated.  
Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of School News Roll Call. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content.



**Rockview Family Farms**  
**Where the Cows Come Home**



Family-owned Rockview Family Farms offers quality dairy products at a price you can afford and is located in Southern California—it's practically farm to fridge!

[www.RockviewFarms.com](http://www.RockviewFarms.com)



## Alvord Unified School District

9 KPC Parkway, Corona, CA 92879 • 951/509-5000 • [www.alvordschools.org](http://www.alvordschools.org)

## More Than Good Intentions



**Dr. Allan J.  
Mucerino**  
Superintendent

In Alvord Unified School District, we are focused on our purpose to provide a world-class education to our nearly 20,000 students. We are proud to share the City of Riverside with Riverside Unified School District and together bring our community choice and opportunity. Alvord encompasses the western portion of Riverside, a small eastern sliver of the City of Corona, and segments of incorporated parts of Riverside County. Daily, each of our 23 schools provides our students with the relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences necessary to inspire them to reach high and follow their dreams.

Using an asset-based approach and building on the belief that excellence is within everyone, we seek students' voice and empower teachers to lead as we support a collective focus on Literacy and Equity. Literacy is a vital component of college and career readiness, and our district-wide plan outlines the steps necessary to ensure that students gain the ability to read, write, and communicate with competence and confidence in the 21st century.

As a learning organization committed to addressing the unique needs of each student, Alvord is proud to offer and grow a number of programs such as Dual Language Immersion (DLI), International Baccalaureate (IB), Project Lead The Way (PLTW), Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), Alliance for a Healthier Generation, and a music program beginning with instrumental music in the elementary grades, each taught by dedicated, highly qualified teachers.

Capitalizing on the belief that success is our shared responsibility, we empower every individual to collectively transform the educational landscape.

## Beaumont Unified School District

350 Brookside Ave., Beaumont, CA 92223 • 951/845-1631 • [www.beaumont-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.beaumont-ca.schoolloop.com)

## Focused on Successes



**Terrence A.  
Davis**  
Superintendent

The Beaumont Unified School District has grown to more than 10,500 students who are academically excelling with the support of 1,154 dedicated and hard working educators. We strive for equity and remain focused on the academic, social, and personal successes of each student, ensuring they graduate from Beaumont USD college and career ready, prepared for the world.

The number of Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathways we offer continues to grow preparing our students to meet the demand of the global and local workforce. Our College and Career Indicator, measured by the State of California, is near the top in Riverside County.

We are proud of the District's 2017-18 graduation rate, which was 94.1%, and we are closing the achievement gap among student groups.

We stand together, serving our students, our families, and one another while embracing the challenges that come with a growing community. We successfully opened Starlight Elementary School in August of 2018, the first school to be built in our District in more than nine years. The District is actively planning for additional schools and state of the art classroom space.

We continue to focus on our mission of providing high quality educational opportunities for all students in a safe and secure learning environment through a shared commitment among home, school and community. We remain committed to building strong relationships with our students, developing engaging and relevant instructional rigor.

Beaumont USD is proud of the work being done for our students and the community. We pride ourselves in the successes of our students and staff. Thank you for the continued support!

## Banning Unified School District

161 West Williams St., Banning, CA 92220 • 951/922-2706 • [www.banning.k12.ca.us](http://www.banning.k12.ca.us)

## Standards of Quality & Achievement



**Robert T. Guillen**  
Superintendent

Our students come from many different backgrounds, cultures, and religions. They are all welcome at our schools. We are taking steps to insure that they are receiving the support they need to succeed at every level, the school, the district and the community.

We understand that significant change in beliefs, in practices, in relationships take time. Taking a developmental approach means starting small and building overtime. Giving staff repeated opportunities to learn from formal training, from coaching, staff development, and from colleagues. We will be able to meet the following District's established goals:

- Goal #1: BUSD will recruit, retain, and professionally develop highly qualified teachers.
- Goal #2: BUSD will provide and assess all students with instructional materials aligned with Common Core Standards.
- Goal #3: BUSD will provide all students access to core curriculum, materials, and high quality instruction that leads to college and career readiness.
- Goal #4: BUSD will provide a safe school climate!
- Goal #5: BUSD will actively engage all stakeholders!
- Goal #6: BUSD will maintain fiscal solvency through effective and efficient District Operations.

The Board played an important role in developing the above goals, but also in the planning of insuring that they are being accomplished. I want to stress that I am proud to serve under these highly dedicated individuals. As leaders, they want to insure that our district puts students at the heart of how it operates. Meeting all the different needs of the students so they meet standards of quality and achievement.

## California School for the Deaf, Riverside

3044 Horace Street, Riverside, CA 92506 • 951/248-7700 • [www.csdr-cde.ca.gov](http://www.csdr-cde.ca.gov)

## New Deaf Superintendent Signifies Literacy



**Dr. Nancy  
Hlibok Amann**  
Superintendent

A native of New York City, Nancy Hlibok Amann holds BA and MS degrees in Government and Administration from Gallaudet University and a Ph.D. in Bi-Literacy and Reading from the University of Arizona.

Nancy began her career at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind as a classroom teacher, ASL Specialist, Parent Advisor, and Deaf Mentor. After receiving her Ph.D., she became a Literacy Specialist working with classroom, itinerant, and supervising teachers. She then undertook administrative roles, with her last position in Arizona as Assistant Superintendent.

After moving to California, Nancy worked as the Director of Special Projects and Development at Deaf Community Services in San Diego, and briefly taught as a high school teacher at the San Diego Unified School District. In July of 2016, she became the superintendent of CSDR.

At California School for the Deaf in Riverside, which serves 12 counties in Southern California, Nancy launched the initiatives for kindness and equity. Her most important goal is academic achievement in literacy for all students. "Literacy is the gateway to success," she signified when recently dressed as a dairy cow visiting an Elementary classroom to read aloud the book *Click Clack Moo*. "The best part about reading to students is seeing the light that radiates from their eyes."

Nancy's husband Alan, who is also deaf, is an attorney with California Department of Justice, and together they have three children. Their son, also deaf, is studying Law at Georgetown University. Their older daughter is at UC Davis, and their youngest is a high school junior.

## Corona-Norco Unified School District

2820 Clark Ave., Norco, CA 92860 • 951/736-5000 • [www.cnusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.cnusd.k12.ca.us)

## Academic Excellence – High Standards



**Dr. Michael H.  
Lin**  
Superintendent

At the Corona-Norco Unified School District, students depend on us every day to prepare them for a promising future. It is a privilege to lead a District greatly focused on student success providing social and emotional support and academic rigor and relevance.

At CNUSD, students have the opportunity to enroll in vigorous Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual Language Immersion, Career Technical Education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) courses. We look forward to continuing to expand our CTE and STEM programs. Student and staff safety is top priority for CNUSD. No student should ever be afraid to attend

school. We are dedicated to putting an end to bullying, fostering a safe school environment, reducing stigma, spreading positivity, and encouraging students to be kind to one another. Last year, our District launched the #CNUSDisKind campaign, which received the 2018 HERO Initiative of the Year award from the Anti-Bullying Institute.

Our mission is to provide a quality education for all students within a secure and supportive environment, to promote in all students academic excellence, social growth, and responsible decision-making, and to prepare all students to lead productive lives in a diverse global community.

Paramount to fulfilling our mission is our intentionality as a district is ensuring all students, no matter their background or abilities, are provided with academic excellence, quality teaching, and high standards. We will continue to prepare our students for the future, today.

## Desert Sands Unified School District

47-950 Dune Palms Rd., La Quinta, CA 92253 • 760/777-4200 • [www.dsusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.dsusd.k12.ca.us)

## Equity through Access



**Scott Bailey**  
Superintendent

The mission of Desert Sands Unified School District is to ensure that every student develops the knowledge, skills, and motivation to succeed as a productive, ethical, global citizen by assuring equal access to learning provided by caring, committed, collaborative staff working with families and community partnerships. The district is committed to providing a sound and challenging education for each student. Along with building a strong foundation of fundamental skills, students have opportunities to explore and expand their lives through a variety of experiences including such programs as AVID, International Baccalaureate, AP Capstone, STEM, and a wide variety of CTE academies. Superintendent Scott Bailey remains committed to his mantra that we need to "teach students the way they want to learn, not necessarily how we were taught."

DSUSD prides itself as a district of innovation. A most recent innovation extends the classroom experience and fosters student collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity and innovation. Specifically, the district has built its own LTE network, providing Wi-Fi connectivity throughout the 750 square mile attendance zone. Students who do not have home Wi-Fi access may opt in for a district-provided My-Fi device that connects directly to the district's filtered LTE network. Through district-issued Chromebooks students in grades 6-12 and early-adopter elementary schools can extend their learning experiences providing equitable access and opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

Serving 29,000 students and 2,700 staff, the Desert Sands Unified School District is located in the heart of the Coachella Valley. The district represents the desert communities of Bermuda Dunes, Coachella, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, and Rancho Mirage.

## Coachella Valley Unified School District

87-225 Church St. (P.O.Box 847), Thermal, CA 92274 • 760/399-5137 • [www.cvusd.us](http://www.cvusd.us)

## What We Believe in the Coachella Valley



**Dr. Edwin  
Gomez**  
Superintendent

The Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) encompasses 1,200 square miles of rural farmland and desert in south-eastern Riverside County, including the small communities of Thermal, Coachella, Oasis, and Mecca, plus Salton City in Imperial County, approximately 60 miles from the Mexican border. The geographical center of the district is Thermal, which is around 30 miles southeast of Palm Springs. In this geographically sprawling and somewhat isolated district of 18,002 students, over 9,500 students are transported daily.

CVUSD serves 21 schools, 14 (K-6) elementary schools, three (7-8) middle schools, one (7-12) school, two (9-12) comprehensive high schools, and one continuation high school.

The district also serves students in state and federal programs for preschool children. The Coachella Valley Adult School is the largest adult school in the Coachella Valley, serving over 3,000 adult students annually. Approximately 92% of students participate in the free and reduced lunch program.

The vision of the Coachella Valley Unified School District is Preparing All Students for College, Career, and Citizenship. The CVUSD Board of Trustees further defines our commitment to all learners as follows: "We Believe":

- All students must have access to student-centered, rigorous educational programs provided by knowledgeable, caring, and committed staff.
- Through educational accomplishments, all students will acquire the ability to become productive, responsible citizens.
- Successful educational programs allow for the aspirations of all individuals by creating opportunities for discovering/developing their given talents.
- A positive relationship between school, parents, and the community is a keystone to student success.
- Our students are the legacy for our future.

## School News

*Education+Communication=A Better Nation*



Thank you for reading *School News*.

We publish 30+ publications and are always in need of sales reps to introduce *School News* to the communities. If you have sales experience and would like to make calls from home while your children are in school, you might enjoy joining our sales team.

Please contact **Kay 562-493-3193 or [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)**

In addition to the hard copies we print, we post all of our publications on our web site for our online readers [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

## TUTORING, CLASSES and more!



**Now Registering**



**MATH TUTOR  
2008-2018**  
11 Consecutive Years

**MyLearning  
Studio.com®**  
17086 Van Buren Blvd. • Riverside, CA 92504  
Se Habla Español

Public \* Private \* Home \* Charter Schools

Common Core Specialists

Reading Comprehension

All Levels of Mathematics

Sciences and Spanish

[www.MyLearningStudio.com](http://www.MyLearningStudio.com) • (951) 789-5402 • [Info@MyLearningStudio.com](mailto:Info@MyLearningStudio.com)

## Hemet Unified School District

1791 W. Acacia Ave., Hemet, CA 92545 • 951/765-5100 • [www.hemetusd.org](http://www.hemetusd.org)

# Enhancing Student Outcomes



**Christi Barrett**  
Superintendent

Creating a culture of continuous improvement throughout the organization has been one of our primary focuses this year. In order to provide our students with abundant opportunities, we must constantly be studying our practices and procedures to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students. Our team works through the Plan, Do, Study, Act process when analyzing data to improve upon current practices and to enhance student outcomes.

In addition to the Plan, Do, Study, Act process, administrators throughout the organization are expected to create an action plan for their site/department. These action plans provide focus and clarity to staff when making tough decisions. They also allow leaders to collaborate with their peers by providing shared learning opportunities they have experienced when executing their action plans.

This school year, Hemet Unified School District was recognized by Riverside County Office of Education at its 16th Annual Education Summit for its work around Continuous Improvement. Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Tracy Chambers and I led a workshop in the District's Culture of Continuous Improvement: Implementation of Academic Standards, School Climate, Student Achievement, and Student Engagement. We described the District's need to create systems and processes to inform the work of staff in order to improve the outcomes for all students. We went into detail about new systems which were put in place; such as the District Office becoming a structure of support for staff instead of a top-down model approach and a Principal Professional Learning Community (PLC) known as the District's Squad Model. We also described the work of action plans and how data supports staff's decision for implementation and revisions.

Thanks to the collaboration between all staff throughout the organization, Hemet Unified School District is one step closer to reaching its aspirational goal of becoming the Premier Choice School District its students deserve!

## Lake Elsinore Unified School District

545 Chaney St., Lake Elsinore, CA 92530 • 951/253-7000 • [www.leusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.leusd.k12.ca.us)

# Social-Emotional Learning Supports Students



**Dr. Douglas  
Kimberly**  
Superintendent

The District's investment in Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and the wellness of all students is as important as equipping classrooms and campuses with the latest educational technology.

To date, several professional SEL positions have been added that were not on the books three years ago. SEL team members not only help elementary through middle school students, they partner with teachers to adroitly manage an ever growing number of students outside of special education who come to school with behavioral challenges and emotional needs.

In addition, we have recently added a social worker to expand our SEL program for foster youth. The success of our SELP team shows how a comparatively small investment in intervention significantly benefits teachers, students, and families.

Our blended learning program at Keith McCarthy Academy recently implemented a third tier of interventions and supports to build on top of our established multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS).

Another program that reflects LEUSD's commitment to SEL is the Boys Town model, a key portion of the District's Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS). Parent classes and teacher training work in tandem to guide healthier decision-making by students.

Passage of the Measure V technology bond measure made it easier to show stakeholders what a state-of-the-art classroom can do for our students. Investing to meet the emotional needs of all students through SEL will do much more.

## Jurupa Unified School District

4850 Pedley Rd., Jurupa Valley, CA 92509 • 951/360-4100 • [www.jusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.jusd.k12.ca.us)

# Learning Without Limits



**Elliott Duchon**  
Superintendent

Unlocking the potential of each student is our primary goal. This starts with a rigorous education and ability to persevere when the task is difficult. We are incorporating the latest neuroscience research into our curriculum to help each student build a better brain. Teachers strive to instill each student with the hope to succeed and follow a path to college or a viable career. We offer AVID at our sixteen elementary schools, and all of our middle and high schools. Our Digital Gateway program provides each kindergarten through twelfth grade student with a Chromebook.

Rigorous Units of Study, created by our highly qualified teachers, promote complex new learning. We offer Dual Immersion programs at three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. At Pacific Avenue Academy of Music, educators unite musical performance with a rigorous standards-based curriculum.

Our middle and high schools offer a wide range of college and career readiness programs, providing each child with a unique learning experience, including the Rubidoux Early College High School, the Patriot High School Advance Placement Capstone, the Mira Loma Middle School STEM curriculum and the Jurupa Valley High School STEAM program. High schools offer career pathways in First Responders, Medical Occupations, Agriculture, Engineering, Welding, and Building Trades.

We offer unique family support including wrap-around health care; Café Literario, a book club for Spanish speaking mothers; ABC Music and Me for toddlers; and support to new mothers.

Our Governing Board is dedicated to providing every student with the opportunity to enjoy a successful life by Learning Without Limits.

## Menifee Union School District

29775 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-1851 • [www.menifeeusd.org](http://www.menifeeusd.org)

# Strong Academic Foundation



**Dr. Steve  
Kennedy**  
Superintendent

Menifee Union School District provides an excellent TK-8th grade educational program for one of the fastest growing areas in the State of California. With a goal of developing a uniquely strong academic foundation for each child's on-going educational and life success, MUSD continues to make very positive strides both academically, and in the area of social and emotional health. Our commitment to providing a future ready education is purposeful and is supported by a truly caring staff who go the extra mile regularly to provide our Menifee students and their families all they need to thrive. In 2018, our preschools were recognized by RCOE as an award winning program on the Quality Rating Improvement System. In science, our students continue to make excellent progress, making substantial gains across the board. In the Menifee Union School District, our work together is to maximize learning through daily opportunities that engage critical thinking, problem solving and working collaboratively. I would invite you to stop in for a visit to see first-hand our amazing staff and students at work.

**Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn.**

— Benjamin Franklin

## Moreno Valley Unified School District

25634 Alessandro Blvd., Moreno Valley, CA 92553 • 951/571-7500 • [www.mvusd.net](http://www.mvusd.net)

## Shine Brighter – Excellence on Purpose



**Dr. Martinrex  
Kedziora**  
Superintendent

Moreno Valley Unified School District is soaring and our graduates are heading into the world college and career ready. As superintendent of our great district, I am proud of each and every student, staff member and parent of our community. We are all working together to enjoy incredible success since 2010.

Our team has created an upward spiral of success and we are seeing the results. Our graduation rate has grown more than 23% the past eight years. All four of our comprehensive high schools now have a graduation rate exceeding 92%! Our graduates are also heading to college with more scholarships and grants than ever before - \$73 million in 2018.

Our Board of Education is supportive of our focus on individual students and their unique needs. We believe each child is worth all of our efforts and our emphasis on equity is closing gaps between student groups. With that, we added high-profile academic programs, like International Baccalaureate (IB) and AP Capstone Diploma programs, to support our students on their educational journey.

We have so many reasons to be proud as we are shining brighter here in Moreno Valley; five of our middle schools have been designated Schools to Watch, we have received eight California School Boards Association Golden Bell Awards, we have twelve California Gold Ribbon Schools, district graduates are eligible for free first-year tuition thanks to the Moreno Valley College Promise Initiative, we have almost 30 Career Technical Education pathway programs, and multiple specialized programs, including an online academy, Computer Science Immersion School and a Saturday STEAM Academy to provide even more resources for students to achieve.

We were recently named the Advanced Placement National District of the Year for our work in opening up AP classes to more students while maintaining our AP test pass rate. We provide one of the best learning environments in the state and nation as we "Shine Brighter" with "Excellence on Purpose!"

## Nuview Union School District

29780 Lakeview Ave., Nuevo, CA 92567 • 951/928-0066 • [www.nuviewusd.org](http://www.nuviewusd.org)

## Serving the Whole Child



**David Pyle**  
Superintendent

The Nuview Union School District is a small, TK-8 district that serves students in the Lakeview, Perris and Nuevo communities. The District is made up of two, TK-6th grade elementary schools and one 7-8 grade middle school. Our core program consists of a new Math Adoption (Eureka Math) that is now fully implemented at each school site. Engage NY Curriculum is used to teach English Language Arts in grades 4-6, while units of study have been developed for grades TK-3 and 7-8. Teachers in each grade level are provided release days throughout the year to refine these Units of Study. Professional Development has been provided to all teachers in Direct Interactive Instruction and among other things,

Step Up to Writing. PBIS is also being implemented in each of our schools to provide a behavioral framework for students in NUSD. Each of our school sites is equipped with a dedicated STEM lab where students have the opportunity to work hands on with the new Next Generation Science Standards. Each school also has a Teacher on Special Assignment to help deliver Tier 2 Intervention to identified students and also uses the I-Ready program to help address the needs of students needing intervention. In addition, our elementary schools each have a full time PE teacher, allowing for additional small group interventions.

Our goal is excellence and it shall be achieved by serving the whole child through broad based educational experiences that include maximizing student safety and well-being while promoting student achievement in preschool through college by: Technology Support for Instruction, Data, and Assessment to Ensure High Levels of Student Achievement; Align Fiscal and Human Resources to Implement Common Core Instruction to Support Student Achievement; Communication and Stakeholder Engagement to Ensure the Support of Student Achievement; Professional Development for All in Order to Provide a High Level of Support for our Students.

## Murrieta Valley Unified School District

41870 McAlby Court, Murrieta, CA 92562 • 951/696-1600 ext. 1002 • [www.murrieta.k12.ca.us](http://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us)

## A 2018 California Exemplary District



**Patrick Kelley**  
Superintendent

High academic standards, highly acclaimed Visual and Performing Arts, and award-winning Athletics are several reasons why MVUSD was recognized as a 2018 California Exemplary District. MVUSD continues to be one of the highest performing districts in Riverside County and one of 11 districts in the state to be named a 2016 Honor Roll District by the California Business for Educational Excellence (CBEE). We have eight 2017-18 CBEE Star Schools, 12 California Distinguished Schools, and eight Gold Ribbon schools. Our success as a district is due in large part to our wonderful parents and students, a dedicated school board and excellent teachers and administrators whose

shared commitment is to provide the very best education possible for each child. Our world class educational program integrates rigorous academics, career technical skills, highly-acclaimed visual and performing arts programs, championship interscholastic athletic programs, nationally recognized student activities programs and an extensive array of extra-curricular activities from elementary to high school.

The educational options available to students include two Visual & Performing Arts schools, STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) schools, college and career pathways at all high schools, an IB World High School, dual enrollment and an international student exchange program with Mt. San Jacinto Community College, K-12 AVID Demonstration schools, and a K-12 Independent Study Program. Technology is used extensively in the classrooms to support and assess student learning and achievement.

At Murrieta Valley Unified high academic standards and expectations for all students are the foundation that enables our students to soar in academic success as they prepare for future success in college, careers and life.

## Palm Springs Unified School District

150 District Center Dr., Palm Springs, CA 92264 • 760/883-2700 • [www.psusd.us](http://www.psusd.us)

## Lifelong Learning Starts Here!



**Sandra Lyon**  
Superintendent

"Lifelong Learning Starts Here!" is Palm Springs Unified School District's new vision statement, and it really does accurately reflect how we hope each of our nearly 22,000 students and their families see us. It is an honor and a privilege to be the Superintendent of Schools of such an innovative, forward-thinking district that is unafraid to take risks and make progressive changes in the interest of what's best for our students.

We are a PreK-12 District with 27 schools, many early childhood education programs and a hybrid online academy.

Each of our high schools has at least two Career Academies, along with career pathways aimed at preparing our students for higher education and/or careers. Our areas of focus include: Academic Achievement, Human Resources Development, Safe and Secure Environments and Parent/Community Partnerships, and all of the programs and services we implement keep those foci in the forefront. Some of our newest programs include implementation of full-day kindergarten throughout the entire District, two Parent Resource Centers, a dual language academy, arts summer camps, Musical Theatre University and an International Baccalaureate Program.

You will not find a Board of Education, administration or staff more committed to student health, safety and academic success. Visit any one of our campuses, and it will be quite apparent how much staff members care about their students – academically, emotionally, socially and personally. We are truly a family of educators who seek to inspire, motivate and serve all of the needs of our students.

## Palo Verde Unified School District

295 N. First St., Blythe, CA 92225 • 760/922-4164 • [www.pvusd.us](http://www.pvusd.us)

## A Culture of Continual Improvement



**Dr. Charles Bush**  
Superintendent

Greetings from Palo Verde Unified School District. We are the district across the desert and beside the river in Riverside County. The time we have spent building the infrastructure and listening to the needs of our community and staff is paying off. We are seeing incremental and steady growth in student achievement, and have made significant progress improving attendance, decreasing discipline and creating a culture of continual improvement. While not yet at levels where we wish to be, PVUSD saw academic growth in the 2017-2018 school year and we will continue to make headway. PVUSD is a district moving up and doing all we can for the students we serve.

## Perris Elementary School District

143 East 1st St., Perris, CA 92570 • 951/657-3118 • [www.perris.k12.ca.us](http://www.perris.k12.ca.us)

## Empowering and Inspiring Students



**Jean Marie  
Frey**  
Superintendent

Perris Elementary School District, located in the western part of Riverside County, serves approximately 6,000 students. The district operates nine schools, 7 of which serve students in grades TK through six, 1 that is a district sponsored charter school that serves students in grades Kindergarten through eighth and 1 preschool serving children ages three through five.

The district's mission statement is to empower and inspire our students to make productive contributions to society. We do this by inspiring them to see a future without limits; engaging them with relevant learning experiences that build confidence; and developing their ability to communicate beliefs, ideas, and a passion to learn.

The California Standards drive our educational program and influence the design of curriculum in all subject areas, assessments and teaching methods in our classrooms. We believe the most effective instructional approach is to prevent academic difficulties before they begin. To that end, we know the key to ensuring academic success is to make the first instruction students receive their best instruction. In addition, we are proud to provide students district wide with a well-rounded, balanced curriculum that includes a multi-tiered system of supports and:

- AVID Elementary
- a counseling program with full time counselors
- social worker intern support
- art with full time art teachers
- PE with full time PE teachers
- a focus on STEAM education and technology

Perris Elementary School District is a district where caring and dedicated teachers and staff provide an environment that supports the academic growth, goals and future dreams of all students! We are committed to ensuring students have a safe, positive learning environment which enables education to thrive.



## Riverside Unified School District

3380 14th St., Riverside, CA 92501 • 951/788-7135 • [www.riversideunified.org](http://www.riversideunified.org)

## Academic Success for All Students



**Dr. David  
Hansen**  
Superintendent

Riverside Unified School District's (RUSD) mission is to provide engaging, innovative, and equitable learning experiences for all students, affirming that all students are guaranteed an exceptional education that ensures readiness for college, career and the world. RUSD is a full service community school district that emphasizes academic success of all students, as well as emotional support and well-being. Our District practices three overarching goals:

- Provide high-quality teaching and learning environments for all students.
- Prepare all students to be college, career and world ready upon graduation.
- Fully engage students, parents and the community in support of short and long-term educational outcomes.

Riverside Unified School District is the 16th largest school district in California, serving nearly 42,000 students in 50 schools in Riverside, California. The district serves a large portion of the City of Riverside as well as unincorporated areas of Highgrove, Lake Mathews and Woodcrest in Riverside County. The District is governed by a publicly elected Board of Education consisting of five members who serve five different trustee areas, and is led by Superintendent Dr. David Hansen.

With vast recognitions and award winning programs, RUSD offers programs like: AVID K-12, International Baccalaureate, Project Lead the Way, Dual Language Immersion, career pathways, STEM Academy, Core Knowledge, custom schools and model continuation programs.

RUSD addresses the opportunities and achievement gap through high quality instruction, students must be taught by well-prepared, collaborative educators who enjoy the challenge of this work. RUSD is proud of the work we have accomplished with a progressive vision for the future

## Perris Union High School District

155 4th St., Perris, CA 92570 • 951/943-6369 • [www.puhsd.org](http://www.puhsd.org)

## Technology and Innovation



**Grant Bennett**  
Superintendent

Perris Union High School District redefines itself and, in the process, is redefining the lives of the students it serves. Graduation rates have continually been increasing over the past few years and have reached a point to place PUHSD in the top five districts in Riverside County. The number of students enrolled in our AVID Program throughout the district has exploded. This leads to more students completing the A-G requirements for college entrance. In addition, more students are now being accepted into America's top colleges and universities.

Our schools have been recognized for excellence in a variety of different programs. The Heritage High School AVID Program was revalidated as an AVID National Demonstration School last year. Paloma Valley High School has been recognized as a Silver Medal School, two years in a row, ranking it in the top 10% of the school's in the nation. The California Military Institute was awarded as a Gold Ribbon School by CDE for its outstanding academic program. The California Schools Boards Association awarded Perris High School with a Golden Bell for its CTE Medical Assisting program. The entire PUHSD has been recognized for the district wide Kick Off to College, where every student is involved in some activity revolving around college and career readiness. All of these things do not even take into account that the PUHSD is in its sixth year of our Scholar+ Teaching and Learning initiative. We continue to give teachers the opportunity to be innovative in the use of technology in their classroom and every student in the PUHSD is given a Chromebook to take home and use for their studies. Giving our students an equal opportunity to learn through technology and innovation is a strength of our district.

## Romoland School District

25900 Leon Rd., Homeland, CA 92548 • 951/926-9244 • [www.romoland.net](http://www.romoland.net)

# Serve, Challenge, Inspire!



**Trevor J. Painton**  
Superintendent

The Romoland School District Board of Education is dedicated to the success of each and every student. We provide 21st century learning environments with exceptional teachers who are focused on meeting the individual needs of students.

Educators are intentional in the design of learning experiences that develop communication skills among students, foster creativity, require critical thinking, and encourage high levels of collaboration. All are necessary skills for students to be successful in the college and career choices of their future.

A key component to 21st century learning environments is access to instructional technology. As a district, we provide students with daily, in-class access to these tools to support, enhance, and empower them to be active participants in their own learning. Romoland schools are engaged in the Future Ready process. We work to ensure that technology and digital learning plans align with the best instructional practices, are implemented by highly prepared teachers, and lead to personal and authentic learning experiences for all students.

In addition to providing a rigorous academic program that prepares students for their future, Romoland School District works diligently to ensure every student feels welcomed and connected to their school. This begins with establishing supportive environments that encourage positive interactions among all students and staff. Our strong elementary and middle school counseling programs reinforce this concept by working to meet the social-emotional needs of students through whole group, small group, and individualized supports.

Romoland School District is “whole-child” dedicated--committed to serving, challenging, and inspiring all students to achieve academic excellence, build character, and pursue lifelong learning.

## Temecula Valley Unified School District

31350 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula, CA 92592 • 951/676-2661 • [www.tvusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.tvusd.k12.ca.us)

# Thank You to Our Staff and Community



**Tim Ritter**  
Superintendent

As Superintendent for the Temecula Valley Unified School District, I am blessed and proud to be part of a dedicated team of people from across our district that model our mission “High-Quality Teaching and Learning for All,” as well as our collective goal of “Inspiring Excellence. Impacting the Future.”

TVUSD continues to be an award-winning school district because of the people serving at every level of the organization. We continue to be among the highest performing school districts in the state. Our graduates attend top colleges and universities, military academies, programs, and trade schools.

With the leadership of our Board of Education and support from our community, we have achieved many of our goals but we continue to strive to grow in areas that reinforce our 21st-century learning opportunities. This year, we continue to focus on preparing students for college and career readiness and are expanding our CTE (Career Technical Education) programs at all high schools with class offerings in engineering, manufacturing, digital art design, technology, culinary and more. We also continue to modernize schools and facilities through the community funded Measure Y bond. We are truly grateful for this support as these funds continue to help us upgrade learning spaces for our students and staff.

**An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.**  
— Benjamin Franklin

## San Jacinto Unified School District

2045 S. San Jacinto Ave., San Jacinto, CA 92583 • 951/929-7700 • [www.sanjacinto.k12.ca.us](http://www.sanjacinto.k12.ca.us)

# The San Jacinto Difference



**Diane Perez**  
Superintendent

I invite you to experience The San Jacinto Difference where we exist to educate and empower all students to achieve academic excellence, personal growth and social responsibility through the implementation of our student-centered vision: each and every student, college and career-bound.

Now serving my sixth year as superintendent, I am honored to support our 10,050 students, our dedicated, highly-skilled and passionate staff, and the community. I am proud to be part of the synergy of the San Jacinto Difference that has us transforming into the ‘Disneyland’ of schools where we have set the gold standard for every employee and student; our culture is characterized by a caring, joyful and safe school climate that is collaborative, inclusive, rigorous, and engaging.

Nothing is more important than educating the children that have been entrusted us. To this end, San Jacinto Unified School District (SJUSD) commits to utilizing sound educational practices proven to increase student achievement. SJUSD’s learning-focused and collaborative culture provides our students with what they need in real time so that each student can be successful. Our systems of support are designed to meet both the social emotional and academic learning of all children.

We encourage your partnership as we continue to create the ‘Disneyland’ of schools, where excellence and results are the norm, learning is fun and engaging, clear pathways for student success are developed, and passion is ignited — this is *The San Jacinto Difference!*

## Val Verde Unified School District

975 West Morgan ST., Perris, CA 92571 • 951/940-6100 • [www.valverde.edu](http://www.valverde.edu)

# Where Success Begins



**Michael R.  
McCormick**  
Superintendent

The Val Verde Unified School District is located in the heart of the Inland Empire, approximately 72 miles east of Los Angeles. Neighboring the district and its communities are March Air Force Base and the Lake Perris recreational area. This centralized location in southern California has afforded our district with the opportunity to serve a very diverse community.

We believe that the success of our students goes beyond their academic achievements, and that’s why we work closely with our staff and parents to provide an environment that is centered on the individual needs of every student. As such, Val Verde offers classes and programs that strive to go beyond the basics, including but not limited to AP courses, dual language immersion, and CTE courses in logistics, welding, video production, and nursing, just to name a few. With the support of our amazing board we’ve been able to accomplish a 96.12% attendance rate which is one of the highest in Riverside County, the 4th highest graduation rate in Riverside County at 93.2%, 52.8% AG completion rate, and 97% FAFSA completion rate. We believe these metrics will continue to rise through the efforts tied to our number one goal which is reading by third grade.

Being part of a community means sharing in the accomplishments as well as the hardships of those around us. This year, the Paradise Schools located in Butte County suffered a devastating loss of all their campuses due to the Camp Fire. We were thrilled to help their students continue their education by donating over 2,000 laptops. These chromebooks have helped the Paradise students access educational tools even without access to a classroom.

## Art and Social Comment



**Calumny at Apelles – Botticelli**

Botticelli's *Calumny of Apelles* depicts injustice by using a past event that showed how truth and justice were abused by others. Calumny, with a torch that symbolizes truth, drags a victim to the judge sitting high above, with Ignorance and Suspicion whispering in his ears that are shaped like those of a donkey. Envy stands in rags before the judge, while Fraud and Conspiracy weave roses into Calumny's hair. Truth is standing naked in the back, with only Remorse glancing back at the naked Truth.

Ben Shan took Botticelli's *Calumny*'s symbols for his *Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti* social comment on the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti. See if you can compare the symbolism between the two portraits.

## 'American Gothic' by Grant Wood



**American Gothic – Grant Wood**

One of the most famous American paintings of the 20th century was *American Gothic* by Grant Wood. The Gothic farmhouses that were found in Iowa fascinated Wood. He asked the owners of one of them for permission to paint a portrait of their house. The models were Wood's sister and a local dentist, who were to represent father and daughter. However, most individuals see a husband and a wife.

The Gothic window in the house and the pitchfork along with the somber faces give one a feeling of a hard life. The painting was entered in an art contest and was criticized by one critic as being comical. The artwork did win a bronze medal and \$300 cash.

There are a variety of opinions on the painting. One group sees the painting as old-fashioned, with a view of a rural America that was changing into a modern urban world—a past world filled with individuals with grim, pinched faces that resisted change from a past of puritanical values and strict Bible thumpers.

Another group that views the painting with an idea of the Great Depression sees it as an example of the steadfast American spirit that built the West—solid individuals who went about their lives trying to make a better life through work.

Art is what one sees, and that might be different from what the artist intended. So, enjoy the artwork for yourself!

About the columnist: D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years.  
He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. He may be reached through *School News* 562-493-3193

## Things in the Sky - Word Search Contest

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

**Entries must be received by October 31, 2019**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift card redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

STARS	MARS	SLEET
SUN	MERCURY	WIND
MOON	SATURN	CLOUDS
AIRPLANE	URANUS	SMOG
KITE	PLUTO	FOG
BALLOON	RAIN	RAINBOW
JUPITER	SNOW	ROCKET



**Congratulations to Amanda Young**  
Winner of the 2nd Annual Riverside County Word Search Contest!



NO PAYCHECK IN THE SUMMER?  
**NO PROBLEM!**

**Our Summer Savings Account was created  
for teachers, administrators, or anyone  
who works for a school or district.**

Summer Savings Rate  
**4.00%\***  
**APY**

**ACCOUNT BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

Maximum deposit of \$2,500 a month, up to a maximum of \$25,000 a year via direct deposit or payroll deduction.

Automatic transfer of funds throughout the year for your convenience.

Earn interest on your deposits.

No monthly service fees.

Funds will be disbursed in July and August for when you need them most.

VIP Checking account required.\*

---

**NOW OFFERING**

---

**SMART  
EDUCATION LOAN**

The Smart Education Loan is for certificated and non-certificated employees. At 0%\*\* APR for 18 months, you'll have everything you need and one less thing to worry about.

**Visit Alturacu.com, or call our Member Services at 888-848-7924 to join.**

\*APY= Annual Percentage Yield. Must qualify for membership and show proof of employment with a school district or college in Riverside County. No penalty for early withdrawal. One Summer Savings account per member. \*\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. A Payroll Direct Deposit of at least \$500 per month in an Altura VIP checking account, automatic transfer of the monthly payment, and continued employment with a qualifying educational employer group is required to maintain 0% APR. In the event you cease to meet the qualifying criteria, finance charges will accrue at an APR of 8.99%. Loan term is 18 months with a monthly payment of \$83.33. For example, if You have a loan for \$1,500.00 for 36 months with an initial preferred rate of 0.00% and a standard non-preferred rate of 8.99%, and You ceased to qualify for the preferential rate after 6 months, Your interest rate would increase to 8.99% (the non-preferred rate) and You would be required to make 4.14 additional payments. If you have \$30,000 or more of unsecured debt with Altura you may not qualify for this loan. Other restrictions may apply. Federally Insured by NCUA.



# Some secrets are best kept — but this isn't one of them

## DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

- **1.5% cash back** on all purchases
- Competitive **low rates**
- **Interest-only payments** in the summer<sup>1</sup>
- **Skip-a-payment** option in January<sup>2</sup>

Learn more at [schoolsfirstfcu.org/  
schoolemployeecreditcard](http://schoolsfirstfcu.org/schoolemployeecreditcard)



JOYCE F.  
Cardholder Since 1991



**SCHOOLSFIRST**   
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Insured by NCUA

1. Offered during June, July and August. Members must contact SchoolsFirst FCU to confirm eligibility and to take advantage of interest-only payments. 2. Automatically offered during January billing cycle to qualified Members. Interest will continue to accrue during the skip payment period.