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**Los Angeles County**

**Public Schools**

**K-12**

**2018 - 2019**

# Superintendents

**11th Edition**



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**JULIE V.**  
Superintendent  
Member Since 2006

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11th Annual Edition

Covering the  
**Los Angeles County  
Public Schools K-12  
Superintendents**

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



This is our 11th Edition highlighting each of the district superintendents in the Los Angeles 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.

To enjoy our publications covering individual districts, please visit our web site [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com).

### A Culture of Excellence



**Dr. Debra Duardo**  
Superintendent

I am delighted to welcome you to *School News Roll Call's* Los Angeles County Superintendents Issue for 2018-19.

In this special annual edition, you will find valuable information about your own community school districts, as well as their achievements and efforts to promote educational excellence. You will also learn about your many neighboring districts and the rich diversity that characterizes Los Angeles County's public education system.

There are 80 school districts spread across 4,000 square miles of our county. The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) serves all those districts and their more than 1.5 million students. We do this in many ways.

As mandated by the state legislature, LACOE certifies the financial health of individual districts and approves the related Local Control and Accountability Plans.

LACOE plays a key role in reviewing each district's budget to ensure fiscal solvency, 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 educate the county's most vulnerable students, including children with severe disabilities, juvenile offenders and others at high risk of dropping out or with unique needs. We also support the academic needs of youth in foster care and students experiencing homelessness.

In addition, 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 state's largest Head Start-State Preschool program, serving more than 13,000 children and their families.

See **LACOE** • Page 9

## Be Part of the Largest National Study on Brain Development and Child Health at UCLA!

The Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study will enroll 10,000+ healthy children and follow them for 10 years from ages 9 to 10 into early adulthood to understand how children's experiences affect brain development and other aspects of their lives - including academic achievement, social development, and behavioral and overall health.



Receive up to \$150 for your time participating in the study. Kids can also get a picture of their brain!

# UCLA

### What will participants do?

There are 1-2 visits in the first year. During these visits, you and your child will be asked to complete interviews and questionnaires, play iPad games, give saliva samples, and undergo a safe, non-invasive MRI scan!

**If interested, contact us:**

**ABCD Study @ UCLA**

**Phone:** (310) 794-0089

**Email:** [abcdstudy@ucla.edu](mailto:abcdstudy@ucla.edu)

**For more info, visit: [AbcdStudy.org](http://AbcdStudy.org)**

## ABC Unified School District

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

### Schools for 21st Century Learners



**Dr. Mary Sieu**  
Superintendent

ABC Unified School District is comprised of ten preschools, 30 schools and serves over 20,000 (K-12) ethnically diverse students in the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Norwalk. Our Adult School serves an additional 10,000 adult learners in the region. As Superintendent of this award winning District, I am honored to be a part of its rich history of academic achievement and innovative partnerships. The District continues its commitment to raise student achievement with a dedicated staff, engaged parents and hard working students. Our strong collaborative partnerships with our employee organizations, local businesses, PTAs, colleges, and civic groups help to advance our mission.

The mission of ABC Unified School District is to develop a community of life long learners, creative thinkers, and responsible individuals by providing innovative and high quality educational programs in a safe and supportive environment.

The District offers an array of educational options for students and families to participate in. This includes sixteen thematic magnet schools, a dual language immersion program, the STEM Program, an IB World School, bi-literacy programs, and international exchange programs. Technology is transforming our classrooms where 1:1 mobile devices are being implemented in several of the schools.

We are proud of our National Blue Ribbon School Awards, California Gold Ribbon Schools, fifteen Golden Bell Awards from CSBA, Seal of Excellence Award from CAFE, and all five of our middle schools selected as Schools to Watch/National Model MS.

The District maintains a sharp focus on teaching and learning to ensure that “every student, in every classroom, every day” is provided a world class education.

## Alhambra Unified School District

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

### Excellence and Equity in a Global Haven



**Denise R. Jaramillo**  
Superintendent

The dynamic and award-winning Alhambra Unified School District serves 17, 000 K-12 students on 19 campuses in a richly culturally diverse community. In this unique global haven, AUSD showcases its dedication to both excellence and equity in rigorous whole student 21st century learning for the competitive college and careers of the future.

The District is known for its superlative team of administrators, teachers and staff; an active, supportive Board; engaged parents and students; innovative business and academic partnerships; its creative, data-driven, consensus-building approach, and its famously student-centered collaborative community.

The depth of AUSD's strong relationships across many fronts has won the District numerous Gold Ribbon, Distinguished Schools, and Title I Academic Achievement Awards. Additionally, AUSD has been awarded multiple Golden Bell Awards for such efforts as its acclaimed LIFT (Learning Independence for Transition) Program and its sought-out Saturday School Program (SSP) for parents and students; the singular Model SARB Award Model Program for exemplary practice in student re-engagement; COE Award for Model Continuing High Schools, among many other honors. AUSD's Dual Immersion Programs in Mandarin and Spanish and its STEM partnerships with UCLA Center X are winning accolades.

The District's recently approved \$259 million school bond for technology and building improvements and upgrades will further enhance AUSD's ability to offer each student an environment in which to thrive. It is my privilege to work with and for such a distinguished and accomplished team in our AUSD *Students First* culture.

## Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District

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

### Stay Gold



**Lawrence M. King**  
Superintendent

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District (AADUSD) is located in the Antelope Valley and is home to less than 10,000 residents. Our schools are surrounded by ranch-style homes and beautiful rolling hills. Beautiful sunsets can be seen reflecting off of the Vasquez Rocks in Agua Dulce.

As the new Superintendent for the District, it has been my pleasure to establish a collaborative, positive, and productive working relationship with our Board of Trustees, administration, teachers, classified employees, parents, and students.

The Board recently approved a successful vendor through the bidding process and we have begun work on Phase 3 construction at Vasquez High School. This project includes a new softball field, practice running track, concession stands, and restrooms. VHS is a newly constructed high school (opened in August, 2015) with state of the art technology, science labs, and culinary facilities that are second to none.

At the beginning of my tenure I introduced a book and formed an online book club for all employees to partake in. The book we are reading and discussing this year is *Growth Mindset*, by Carol Dweck. The idea of *Growth Mindset* is closely tied to our rebranding and a concept that I introduced here at AADUSD, called Stay Gold.

Each of us has a story to tell. Our stories are unique and define and mold us as we find our path. We've asked students, staff, and parents to think about these Stay Gold moments and to share them with each other. This concept became the foundation for our rebranding of AADUSD as evidenced by our website and new social media accounts.

We are proud to celebrate student success everyday!

## Antelope Valley Union High School District

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

### A Rigorous Curriculum



**Dr. David J. Vierra**  
Superintendent

The Antelope Valley Union High School District (AVUHSD) is made up of eight traditional and three continuation high schools, the Academies of the Antelope Valley which include seventh and eighth grades, as well as the Antelope Valley Adult School. The district serves more than 23,000 students in the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, and the surrounding area.

Our high schools offer a variety of programs to prepare students for college and careers. Our career academies and pathways, which focus students' coursework toward a specific field of interest, include industries such as agriculture, digital design, engineering, environmental science, health care, law and government, and the arts.

Our mission is to provide a safe and secure learning environment that promotes a rigorous curriculum and enables our students to develop the necessary academic, technical, and work-related skills of the 21st century. We do this by ensuring that our faculty and staff are provided opportunities to further their development in areas such as innovative classroom teaching strategies and the use of technology in the classroom. We envision that every student who graduates will be prepared to pursue college and any career to which he or she aspires.

#### AVUHSD Fun Facts:

- Set in the Antelope Valley, home to some of the most innovative aerospace developments this century, our students have unique opportunities to learn from professionals including NASA engineers and Air Force test flight pilots!
- Two students from Knight High School in Palmdale were the first U.S. students to win the UAV Challenge in Queensland, Australia!
- AVUHSD covers the largest area of any district in Los Angeles County!

## Arcadia Unified School District

150 South Third Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91006 • 626/821-8300 • www.ausd.net

### Imagine, Inquire, Inspire



**David Vannasdale**  
Superintendent

In my nearly 13 years of working for the Arcadia Unified School District, each year continues to be the best one yet. I am awestruck by what our world-class faculty and staff and our incredibly dedicated students accomplish each day, as am I humbled by the generous community support we receive. One of my favorite highlights from last year was being able to save our Arcadia taxpayers over \$80 million in tax savings through a bond refinance. We do, however, never forget that the fight for funding begins in Sacramento. This year, and for multiple years, we have sent an annual collective of administration, School Board members, teachers, students, and parents to advocate for fair and adequate funding at the California State PTA Legislative Conference, and we believe this is an important conversation for all public schools in California to continue.

We are proud to see our students and staff continue to imagine, inquire, and inspire, with this year marking numerous consecutive year achievements. For the second year in a row, at least one student from Arcadia High School's graduating class was accepted every Ivy League school in the nation. For the second year in a row, Arcadia High has had two Rose Princesses on the Rose Parade Royal Court. For consecutive years, Arcadia High has had at least 20 students named as National Merit Semifinalists. For the second consecutive year, Arcadia Unified School District was named to the College Board's prestigious AP District Honor Roll.

As we move forward, we are enthusiastically venturing into making personalized learning a reality in our district so that we may continue to challenge and inspire students to make a positive and profound impact on their world.

## Baldwin Park Unified School District

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

### Inventing the Future



**Dr. Froilan N. Mendoza**  
Superintendent

At Baldwin Park Unified, we never stop exploring new options for connecting with students and delivering the tools they need to tackle the challenges ahead. In the last two years alone, we have generated an incredible array of new opportunities for our students, including:

- New STEAM pathways at middle, junior high and high schools;
- Competitive middle school and high school robotics teams;
- Expansion of our award-winning dual-language immersion program to a second high school and into preschool;
- A Districtwide science and design competition to replace the antiquated spelling bee;
- New digital classrooms, labs and library facilities;
- A team of specialist coaches that gives all students the resources to succeed; and
- Partnerships with colleges and universities to create new higher education pathways.

These programs build on our successes. Baldwin Park is already distinguished by soaring graduation rates, including one of the strongest continuation high school graduation rates in the state.

Our efforts are recognized by groups such as the California School Boards Association, California Department of Education and California Association for Bilingual Education. Baldwin Park Unified schools have earned 14 state Gold Ribbons, received recognition for our model continuation high school and collected four statewide awards for our pioneering bilingual education program.

This fall, our latest Golden Bell from the School Boards Association recognized a community partnership that blends health, agriculture and sustainability. The program embodies a hallmark of a Baldwin Park Unified education: hands-on learning that provides multiple pathways for students to pursue their dreams.

In this and in all our endeavors, we are driven by our mission to "Ensure High Achievement for ALL Learners."

## Azusa Unified School District

546 S. Citrus Avenue, Azusa, CA 91702 • 626/967-6211 • www.azusa.org

### Everything Students Need to Succeed



**Dr. Linda Kaminski**  
Superintendent

Azusa Unified offers International Baccalaureate (IB); Advanced Placement (AP); many career pathways and academies, including a K-12 STEM Pathway; Academy of Health Sciences; and Academy of Automotive Design; Early College Program; California State Preschool Program; award-winning K-12 Visual and Performing Arts, including Mariachi, elementary band and Powell Elementary School of the Arts; Dual-language Immersion; K-8 school; Computer Coding; competitive athletics at the middle and high school levels, and much more! We offer so many options because no two students are alike, and they have a variety of interests and learning styles.

Providing students with more options keeps them engaged in their learning and encourages them to plan for their future, at college and/or in the workforce. AUSD's graduation rate easily outpaces both the state and national averages. Recent graduates have been accepted at a record number of top colleges and universities in California and across the nation, and offered a record amount of scholarships and grants. Our higher-education partners, Azusa Pacific University and University of La Verne, provide guaranteed admission to AUSD graduates who qualify.

Supporting AUSD's impressive academic, social and athletic opportunities is an intensive facilities-modernization program to ensure all schools are safe, welcoming and can accommodate today's and tomorrow's technology.

Interested in what we have to offer? Come and visit us. We are now welcoming new students. Azusa Unified: Everything students need to succeed, at school and beyond!

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The same nutritious and delicious milk your children have been enjoying at school is now available at a store near you!  
[www.RockviewFarms.com](http://www.RockviewFarms.com)

## Bellflower Unified School District

16703 South Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/866-9011 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us)

### Pathway for All Students



The Bellflower Unified School District serves students who reside within an eight square mile area of southeast Los Angeles County, including most of Bellflower, a large portion of Lakewood and a small portion of Cerritos. We have a diverse student population of approximately 12,000 PreK-12 students. Students attend one of our 10 K-6 grade elementary schools, two 7-12 grade secondary schools, 1 continuation school or our home

education/independent study program. Our district has been designated a Gold Ribbon School District. Several of our schools have been recognized as Gold Ribbon Schools, two are Title I Achievement Schools, and a model continuation school.

The mission of BUSD is to provide a pathway for all students to attain the expertise and develop 21st century skills of academic excellence that will empower them to; become lifelong learners, demonstrate respect for themselves and others in a dynamic, diverse and global society, become responsible, informed productive, independent contributing citizens, and preform successfully in their chosen field and in society.

We are committed to ensuring every student has a safe, secure place to learn, and continue to support social emotional learning programs and Positive Behavior, Interventions and Supports (PBIS), while maintaining high expectations for student behavior. BUSD supports a diverse educational program for all learners. Whether they are headed to college or career, our students have the supports and resources they need to succeed beyond high school. Our programs include intervention and enrichment opportunities, fine arts, performing arts, a comprehensive athletic program, Advanced Placement, and Career Technical Education pathways that are offered both through the District and our partnership with CalAPS.

Bellflower Unified has a long history of great accomplishments and as a team we will continue to excel in our services to students and support the community.

## Beverly Hills Unified School District

255 South Lasky Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 • 310/551-5100 • [www.beverlyhills.k12.ca.us](http://www.beverlyhills.k12.ca.us)

### Future Ready!



**Dr. Michael Bregy**  
Superintendent

The Beverly Hills Unified School District has an acclaimed commitment to providing rigorous and innovative educational opportunities through collaborative community partnerships for our students. As part of carrying out our responsibility to nurture every student to become an inspired learner, a well-rounded individual, and contributing member of a global community, Beverly Hills Unified School District is committed to making sure that all students have authentic and real-world learning opportunities.

The Beverly Hills Unified School District consists of four K-8 elementary schools, one 9-12 high school and a K-12 enrollment of 4100. The district for decades has been recognized both nationally and statewide as a leader in education. Students have consistently scored far above national and state averages on standardized achievement tests. Each elementary school consists of a primary school (K-3), an intermediate school (4-5), and a middle school (6-8). Beverly Hills High School is organized around three houses, each one headed by an assistant principal who is assisted by two counselors and overseen by the Principal. Many residents historically have been attracted to Beverly Hills because of their high regard for the school district's educational program. Due to the strong cultural, artistic and educational backgrounds our parents and community expect an outstanding instructional program and are committed to excellence in education.

To this end, students in Beverly Hills Unified School District actively participate in a world-class education that enhances their quality of life while maximizing the attributes of future ready students.

## Bassett Unified School District

904 North Willow Avenue, La Puente, CA 91706 • 626/931-3000 • [www.bassett.k12.ca.us](http://www.bassett.k12.ca.us)

### Commitment to Success



**Debra French**  
Interim  
Superintendent

One of Bassett Unified School District's priorities is to provide a well-rounded education for our students so that they graduate high school with the skills and knowledge that they can apply in their higher education studies and careers. Whether their goals are to continue to a two- or four-year university, hone their skills at a trade school, or gain early work experience, our District will provide the support for our students to reach their academic and personal goals.

Bassett Unified students discover their career interests through dedicated college-going cultures and rigorous pathway programs throughout all of our campuses. Students begin to think about the skills and level of education needed to potential careers as early as kindergarten thanks to our No Excuses University campuses. Our

elementary and middle schools immerse our students in multiple electives and programs that then guide them to dedicated pathways in high school, including our established Health Academy that provides opportunities for Kaiser Permanente internships, and our Engineering pathway that includes courses in aerospace and water technologies.

It is important that our students immerse themselves in their community and learn the value of leadership and helping others in addition to building their academic foundations. Our students from Bassett and Nueva Vista high schools have hands-on experiences in the classrooms of our youngest learners and within our local community. From mentoring our kindergartners with engaging lessons to providing food and materials for homeless men, women and children in Los Angeles, our students graduate with the understanding that they can become valuable community members inside and outside of their classrooms.

Our teachers, staff, administrators and families work together as a community with the common goal of equipping our students with the resources and tools that will carry them beyond high school. Thanks to these valuable partnerships, our students continue to reach new levels of success each year.

## Bonita Unified School District

115 W. Allen Avenue, San Dimas, CA 91773 • 909/971-8200 • [www.bonita.k12.ca.us](http://www.bonita.k12.ca.us)

### Bonita Unified's Future is Bright



**Carl Coles**  
Interim  
Superintendent

Bonita Unified celebrates achievements in academics, athletics, activities, and the arts. Our students scored big gains on California state assessments. Staff and students were recognized locally, regionally, and statewide for successes on and off the athletic field. The district's financial health is solid. Our first-class facilities continue to improve with new gymnasiums for the students and community. It is through the hard work and dedication of all in Bonita Unified and our community partners that we have so much of which to be proud.

The District continues to focus on equity and access for all students. As the world evolves and the skills required for our students change, so do our practices. We continue to hone our teaching skills, so all classrooms integrate technology, have collaborative environments, provide opportunities for creative expression, infuse problem-solving methodologies, and promote hands-on learning.

The Bonita Unified School District has a tremendously talented teaching staff on every campus in every classroom, and behind every great teacher is an unending amount of support from our classified, certificated, and management teams. It is because of this support; the most important work is done well every day — the interaction between teachers and students.

Bonita USD graduates will be ready to attend universities, local colleges, and technical schools and to enter the competitive workforce or the military. I am confident that Bonita Unified is not only preparing our students with the necessary skills for the 21st century today but giving them a solid foundation for the future.

The future for Bonita is not only bright; it's progressive.

## Burbank Unified School District

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

### From Cradle to Career



**Matt Hill**

Superintendent

At the Burbank Unified School District (BUSD) we focus on providing a quality education to more than 15,000 students via our infant program all the way through our Adult School. For many families, Horace Mann Child Development Center provides their first experience with BUSD. Children enrolled in the preschool program benefit from an educational experience provided by high-quality certificated teachers and classroom aides who are kind and caring. We recently modernized our facilities so that facilities now match the world-class teaching that is taking place inside the building.

Currently, 97% of BUSD students are graduating within four years; however, the community and employees of Burbank Unified will not be satisfied until we ensure 100% of our students graduate. While it may take some students five or more years, we continue to reach out to students to ensure they receive their diploma.

A high school diploma is just the beginning for our students. That is why BUSD is working strategically with local, regional, and national partners to enhance, expand, and support educational programs that prepare students for a global, technical, creative, and innovative economy. We are currently working on new “maker spaces” in all of our middle and high schools, so that students can participate in hands-on science, technology, and engineering projects.

Students and adults also have an opportunity to continue developing their skills at the Burbank Adult School (BAS). The BAS is currently expanding career pathways in the fields of health science and medical technology, including a Licensed Vocational Nurse program. As you can see, Burbank Unified School District is a great place for students to realize their highest potential!

## Castaic Union School District

28131 Livingston Avenue, Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/257-4500 • www.castaicusd.com

### Make Hope Happen CUSD



**Steve Doyle**

Superintendent

Castaic Union School District has committed to all students and families to “#MakeHopeHappenCUSD.” This vision is set forth by the governing board and permeates all of our schools. We have committed to improved technology, in-school and afterschool programs that provide student connectedness and high quality staff. We are the proud home of the California Teacher of the Year, Erin Oxhorn-Gilpin!

#### Our core values promote:

- Respect for individuality, diversity, and shared decision-making.
- Global citizenship, community involvement, strong families, and social responsibility.
- Individuals who have the character and confidence to stand by their convictions.
- Setting high academic and achievement expectations by promoting relevant and rigorous curriculum using real world applications.
- Individual success by being proactive and innovative through creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.

We are confident in the vision that has been established by our Board of Trustees to ensure that every child is successful by providing the highest quality instruction every day for every child. Our priorities in our Local Control Accountability Plan were established through our stakeholder conversations and establish the road map moving forward. We are committed to “Make Hope Happen!”



Greg Plutko '02

Superintendent

Placentia-Yorba Linda

Union High School District

Sally Montemayor Lenz '14

Associate Vice Chancellor

Contra Costa

Community College District

Bryon Schaefer '09

Superintendent

Kern High School District

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## Centinela Valley Union High School District

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

### Ready for College, Career & Life



**Dr. Gregory O'Brien**  
Superintendent

The efforts and energies of every stakeholder within the Centinela Valley Union High School District are focused on ensuring all students have the opportunity to not only graduate, but also to receive a world-class education that effectively prepares them for college, career, and life.

As a high school district, our basic mission is clear: we must prepare 100% of our students to graduate. However, the true measure of our success takes place after the diplomas have been awarded, and our students navigate the challenges and opportunities of the real world as adults. To ensure their success, we provide them with as many options for furthering their education after high school as possible. This includes attaining digital proficiency by using Canvas, our Learning Management System, and one-to-one Chromebooks for all incoming freshmen.

Additionally, we prepare our students for careers. They must have the knowledge and skills necessary to earn a living and succeed in the workplace. As a Linked Learning district, we are committed to connecting the learning that takes place in the classroom with the needs of business and industry in our global economy. Our schools offer opportunities for work-based learning through enrollment in numerous academies as well as field trips, guest speakers, and internships.

Finally, we prepare our students for life. We want them to be good people who care about others and are able to make sound decisions. We want them to value diversity, respect the views of others, and work collaboratively with individuals from multiple cultural backgrounds. We want them to be informed citizens as well as wise leaders. Centinela Valley has many lofty aspirations, and we are committed to ensuring all of our students are ready for college, career, and life.

## Claremont Unified School District

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

### Continual Innovation in Learning



**Dr. James Elsasser**  
Superintendent

Claremont Unified School District has been honored with three 2017-2019 Apple Distinguished Schools—Condit Elementary, Oakmont Outdoor School, and Sycamore Elementary. Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of continuous innovation in learning, teaching, leadership, and school environment that use Apple products to inspire creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. There are only about 400 Apple Distinguished Schools across 29 countries, and Claremont has three of them!

Throughout CUSD, students in grades 3-6 have a personalized iPad available every day in class and students in grades TK-2 have access to a small set of iPads shared in centers instruction.

But simply having access to the technology does not distinguish these schools. Instead, what sets them apart is how they use powerful technology to enrich learning and teaching experiences in ways that would not otherwise be possible. Students create green screen videos to catapult themselves into the Jurassic period, program robots to articulate geometry concepts, compose original songs in GarageBand, collect and analyze data on biome field trips, author original books on topics they are personally interested in, and so much more. Students become empowered curators and creators.

To share our stories with a global audience, each school has authored an interactive iBook showcasing innovative uses of technology in learning, teaching, and the school environment with documented results of academic accomplishment. Download our books today by searching the iBookstore for Claremont Unified School District.

Recognition as an Apple Distinguished School extends opportunities for CUSD to collaborate with an international network of Apple Distinguished Schools to continue providing safe and equitable access to digital environments that empower learners to create work that matters.

## Charter Oak Unified School District

20240 E. Cienega Avenue, Covina, CA 91724 • 626/966-8331 • www.cousd.net

### Academic Opportunities



**Dr. Mike Hendricks**  
Superintendent

Charter Oak USD's outstanding employees continue to attract and retain students and their families by providing and expanding exemplary programs and services that prepare students for college, careers, and/or the military.

Charter Oak has four distinct career pathways to offer students. They include Games and Simulation, Engineering Technology, Biotechnology, and Business Management. The pathways are certified by the National Academy Foundation (NAF). Each of our pathways reflect the industry demands in the San Gabriel Valley as determined by the San Gabriel Valley Economic Development Agency. Pre-requisites curriculum and courses for our pathways are offered at our middle school

with the use of Project Lead the Way courses in engineering, medical, and technology. At the elementary school level, pre-requisites are provided with Project Lead the Way interdisciplinary modules and STEAM activities that require student creativity and collaboration skills.

Charter Oak still offers a range of academic opportunities to meet students' needs and interests. Charter Oak High School offers a full diploma International Baccalaureate program that develops intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills needed to live, learn, and work in a rapidly globalizing world. Advance Placement and Honors courses are also available. A large variety of Regional Occupation courses gives students practical experience in many career areas.

Charter Oak enjoys strong partnerships with articulated courses with Mt. SAC and Citrus College during and post high school. The newly established Charter Oak Adult School also offers many academic programs that lead to certificates for new career opportunities.

Charter Oak USD is a district known for outstanding academic success, award winning visual and performing arts, and successful athletic programs.

## Compton Unified School District

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

### Turnaround is Here to Stay



**Darin Brawley**  
Superintendent

Graduation rates at each of Compton Unified School District's three traditional high-schools (Compton, Centennial and Dominguez) are at 86% or higher, with increases in graduation numbers shown across all demographic groups.

A laser-sharp focus on student achievement and student safety has been at the core of the Compton turnaround, bolstered by a heightened integration of STEAM throughout all schools, facilities improvements, student wellness, and of course, strengthening instruction. Key in moving forward and implementing such improvements have been the support of our Board of Trustees and partnerships with organizations such as Apple, Capitol Records, Google, Music United, and William Morris Endeavor, to name a few.

What we are most happy about when it comes to this exciting news, is that it points directly to our amazing students. Our increase in graduation rates is a testament to their efforts, as well as that of our district's parents, teachers, principals and staff.

We are also celebrating the many other great efforts of our students and staff district-wide. From championship robotics teams, to being recognized for exemplary civic leadership, our schools are being recognized for excelling and providing students with exceptional educational experiences that are preparing them to be 21st learners and leaders!

**Education is not the learning of facts,  
but the training of the mind to think.**

## Culver City Unified School District

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

### Diversity, Art and Persistence



**Leslie Lockhart**  
Superintendent

What gives our students that extra edge, that something special that paves the way for them to be successful throughout college and into their careers? There are three things about CCUSD that stand out: Diversity, Art and Persistence.

**Diversity Matters** — As the 4th most diverse school district in the country, CCUSD is fortunate to have diversity in its DNA/ as our baseline – it’s our normal, and one of the most meaningful attributes of our district. Diversity is not just awareness about other cultures and backgrounds. Our students build understanding, connections, appreciation, and acceptance. We want our children to grow up and create policies that are inclusive and accepting.

**Art softens the edges** — CCUSD has worked hard over the years to ensure that we have a robust integrated arts education program at all grade levels, from TK-12th grade. We have a full time arts coordinator and foundations that generously fund arts education. Our outstanding arts partners enhance our curriculum and support our extensive district-wide arts plan.

**Persistence** — “College and Career Ready” is a mantra at CCUSD. Getting our students to think about college begins as early as kindergarten, as our five elementary schools participate in the Sailing to Success Program, with weekly college spirit days. But it’s not just about getting accepted to college. It’s about staying in college and graduating. We want our students to go anywhere in the world and make an impact, be successful. We know they will make inroads globally. We prepare our students for the long haul and help them achieve career-readiness: skills, stamina, and grit! Knowing that you’re going to be challenged and rise to the occasion – we’re working to develop that stamina through rigorous academics that build intellectual muscle.

## Covina-Valley Unified School District

519 East Badillo Street, Covina, CA 91723 • 626/974-7000 • www.c-vusd.org

### Preparing Kids for Their Future!



**Dr. Richard M. Sheehan**  
Superintendent

Covina-Valley Unified School District is committed to providing students the very best education possible for their future success. Student achievement remains the focus of Covina-Valley, while continuously expanding our course offerings and additional career pathways. The district is expanding our partnerships with local businesses to continue providing our students with real-world applications while in high school. We are driving down our career pathways into the middle and elementary schools.

Covina-Valley offers two dual immersion programs in Spanish and Mandarin, expanding our students’ abilities to be globally competitive. Additionally, we are a Computer Science Magnet District – the first of their kind in Los Angeles County! Students will be immersed in computer science and a technology-oriented environment. The district is expanding its emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics or STEM K-12. The district will continue to emerge as one of the leading districts in providing our students with the 21st Century skills they will need to be pioneers into the next decades to come.

I am not only the proud Superintendent of Schools for the Covina-Valley Unified School District but also a graduate of the district and father of three C-VUSD graduates. Covina-Valley Unified School District provides our students the necessary skills to prepare students for their future!

– AlbertEinstein

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#### LACOE • From Page 3

LACOE plays an important 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 turn to LACOE for state-of-the-art technology services, specialized training and professional development for teachers and school administrators.

With our new vision, *A Culture of Excellence in All We Do*, we strive to provide the best service to our 80 school districts to help ensure that our students reach their full potential and achieve educational success.

As you browse the pages of this special edition of *School News Roll Call*, you will learn how our distinguished district superintendents are leading efforts to provide the best possible education for our students in Los Angeles County.

## Downey Unified School District

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

### Our Kids Deserve the Best...



**Dr. John A. Garcia, Jr.**  
Superintendent

Our district 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 an outstanding school system. Downey Unified has been recognized with distinguished State honors for its high performance. Our Academic Performance Index (API) scores can be found at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov). You are also welcome to schedule a visit to any Downey Unified school. We know you will be impressed with the safe, learning-centered environment and top quality instruction you will encounter.

Downey Unified was nationally recognized by P21 (The Partnership for 21st Century Learning) to be officially designated as an Exemplar School District for 2016-17. One of only four school districts in the nation to receive this designation, Downey Unified received this honor for exemplary 21st Century learning practices in preparing students for success in college, career and life.

In addition to our strong academic programs, we offer the nationally recognized CHARACTER COUNTS! program districtwide. This character education program, which is integrated into academic, discipline, and athletics, is based on 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.

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

## Duarte Unified School District

1620 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5000 • www.duarteusd.org

### 21st Century Schools – 21st Century Students



**Dr. Allan Mucerino**  
Superintendent

Duarte Unified offers a *Competitive Advantage Plan* that sets our students on the road to success for college, career, and life. Our school district is built upon Four Pillars that serve as the foundational principles of our organization. These Four Pillars are:

**A Focus on Results:** The district will reduce the achievement gap equitably between the most successful and least successful students, regardless of their race or ethnicity or social or economic circumstances.

**Service-Centered:** The district will create a culture of service grounded in the promise that all people will be treated with dignity and respect.

**21st Century Schools:** The district will prepare teachers and leaders to create the conditions for students to think critically, solve problems creatively and collaboratively, and compete in the world of complex environmental, political, technological, and socioeconomic challenges.

**Strong Partnerships:** The district will create a culture where partnering entities work together to integrate and complement each other in support of student success.

These Four Pillars support our instructional vision, and guide our professional practices in every classroom at every school across our entire district to ensure success for all students, without exception.

With this foundation, our district is able to offer progressive educational experiences for our students rooted in the arts and sciences. These include exclusive partnerships with the Orange County School of the Performing Arts, City of Hope National Medical Center, and Early College Collaborative with industry leaders and institutions of higher learning.

## East Whittier City School District

14535 E. Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90605 • 562/907-5900 • www.ewcsd.org

### #EWCSDPride



**Marc Patterson**  
Superintendent

Walk onto any campus in the East Whittier City School District and you will see phenomenal things happening each and every day. Strong best first instruction, intentional intervention systems, committed staff members, hard-working 21st Century learners and supportive families are the cornerstones of what makes #EWCSDPride stand out in the community. Our Districtwide focus is to engage ALL of our 8800 students with an integrated 21st Century education centered on what we affectionately refer to as The 5 Cs. Our laser-like focus is on ensuring that each of our students is prepared to move on to high school by being able to think critically, exercise creativity, communicate effectively and collaborate intentionally with their peers. Our 5th C, Community, is evident by what all our students, staff and families do to make their classrooms, schools and East Whittier exceptional.

Our dedicated teachers, support staff and administrators have rallied around our motto of "Opening the Door to EVERY Child's Future." To achieve our vision we have devoted our Tuesday Collaboration time to working collaboratively in Professional Learning Communities. Through these meetings, we are able to answer the most critical questions of a PLC: What will we do when students have not learned the content and what will we do if they have learned it? It is through this diligent focus and belief that ALL students can be successful when they are appropriately supported and challenged, that makes me proud to be a part of our #EWCSDCommunity!

## Eastside Union School District

45006 North 30th Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535 • 661/952-1200 • www.eastsideusd.org

### Innovative Education, Unparalleled Results



**Dr. Joshua Lightle**  
Superintendent

The Eastside Union School District is made up of four elementary schools, one middle school, and one transitional learning center. The district serves approximately 3,500 students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade in the eastern part of the city of Lancaster in the Antelope Valley region of the County.

Our mission is to provide an inclusive, challenging and innovative education in a safe, positive and rigorous learning environment with dynamic and responsive staff, who encourage unparalleled results for students. We do this by providing our faculty and staff with professional learning opportunities to further their development in providing a rigorous academic program using a variety of instructional strategies to meet the differentiated needs of every student in the classroom.

Some guiding principles that we believe can be our foundation of success include:

1. Relationships are key. We are in the people business. Developing positive and productive relationships is a key to the success of any organization.
2. Connect peers with purpose. A climate and culture that fosters continuous and purposeful peer interaction will build powerful teams across the District in order to achieve our mission and vision.
3. Build capacity. Investing in the development of individual and collective efficacy will help us accomplish significant outcomes.
4. Learning is the work. For students and staff alike, our primary goal is learning. All decisions at all levels of the organization must reflect this relentless focus on learning.
5. Transparency rules. A clear and continuous display of results, and clear and continuous access to effective, innovative practice is a key to our improvement efforts.

## El Monte City School District

3540 N. Lexington Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731 • 626/453-3700 • www.emcsd.org

### Well-rounded Students / Lifelong Learners



**Dr. Maribel Garcia**  
Superintendent

We at El Monte City School District continue our dedication to educating and nurturing the whole child in an effort to ensure well-rounded students and lifelong learners.

Our students' learning environment along with our enhanced academic learning opportunities are aligned with college and career readiness. We continue to incorporate technology in inventive ways through our STEAM program and coding classes – all essential for 21st Century learning.

As an Arts for All district we continue to provide professional development to our teachers through an assigned Art Lead Teacher at each school. Every school has a music teacher ensuring quality music education to each and every student. With the success of our Summer Musical Theater Camp, we have added a Musical Theater program to each of our schools during the school year. Our Dual Language program is well underway, and we look forward to adding additional classes next year.

Our district-wide The Leader in Me program has empowered our students and enabled them to effectively communicate and collaborate with not only their teachers and peers, but their community as well.

We are pleased to have Community Liaisons we have at each school site who provide communication and cooperation that fosters a close working relationship between our parents and schools.

Lastly, we are committed to the safety of our students. We have provided significant resources to improve communication and preparedness in the event of an emergency.

Through the efforts of our parents, teachers, staff, community partners and Board members, our district continues to provide a quality education, in a safe environment, for our very deserving students.

## El Segundo Unified School District

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

### Building a Better Future Together



**Dr. Melissa Moore**  
Superintendent

At the El Segundo Unified School District, we believe we must constantly evolve in an effort to fulfill our mission and remain relevant to students and parents. Key to that evolution is our membership in the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools. The national league is an independent, bipartisan nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to accelerate innovation in education and our inclusion will have a direct and positive impact on students. ESUSD was selected from a national, competitive pool of applicants based on its leadership, evidence of results, innovative vision for learning, and commitment to collaboration.

As the public education landscape changes, ESUSD continues to improve its student learner profile through innovative teaching practices and programs. Those include personalized learning at the upper elementary levels, new design curriculum for middle school, blended learning at the high school level, and Project Lead the Way math/science curriculum for K-12. Our elementary students deserve to develop their capacity as digital learners and our secondary students deserve deeper digital learning experiences to move towards personalized learning opportunities.

ESUSD's curriculum is evolving to help students develop the 21st century learning skills identified by the International Society for Technology Education: empowered learner, digital citizen, knowledge constructor, innovative designer, computational thinker, creative communicator and global collaborator. When they graduate, we want all ESUSD students to be fully equipped with this strong skill set so they are well prepared for college and career.

With support from El Segundo's Education Foundation, parents, educators, and business and community partners, we will transform our culture of learning and continue to create innovative educational experiences.

## El Monte Union High School District

3537 Johnson Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731 • 626/444-9005 • emuhd.org

### Committed to College and Career



**Dr. Edward A. Zuniga**  
Superintendent

At the El Monte Union High School District, our sole purpose is to empower and motivate our students to be lifelong learners who are resilient and have the tools to flourish in the 21st century. This is reflected in our District's new mission, vision and motto – a trio of commitments we have made as a community to ensure our students have equitable access to college and careers.

We are dedicated to fostering a Community Committed to College and Career, a theme that permeates and inspires everything that we do at El Monte Union. Influenced by the 4 C's that guide the new California Standards, our motto centers on working collaboratively with our community partners, parents and stakeholders to create a robust college-going culture in which our students will gain the skills and knowledge to be contributing members to our global society.

It is truly a team effort that enables us to provide students with an award-winning educational experience that includes career technical education and STEM pathways, standout athletics, music and arts programs, and a family of educators who care deeply about preparing students to achieve personal and academic success.

El Monte Union works diligently to remove students' barriers to success and provides access to an array of educational opportunities. As an AP District of the Year, we offer students fee waivers for PSAT, SAT and AP exams, free SAT preparation courses and a team of guidance counselors.

We always work together to elevate our students to new heights.

## El Rancho Unified School District

9333 Loch Lomond Drive, Pico Rivera, CA 90660 • 562/942-1500 • www.erusd.org

### Maximizing Potential



**Karling Aguilera-Fort**  
Superintendent

El Rancho Unified is a district that believes its children deserve the best education possible. Approximately 8,400 students attend El Rancho Unified schools, which include eight elementary, three middle and three high schools, as well as an Education Center and a State Preschool program.

From a Dual Language Academy where your child will be able to be bilingual and biliterate, full day transitional kindergarten and kindergarten, to schools where Arts, Science, and Technology are the cornerstone of what your child will be able to experience and enjoy. El Rancho Unified has the right school for your child!

Although the district's mission is universal for all, each school in our district is unique. We believe in providing access and equity through a set of strategies and approaches that support and challenge our students to maximize their potential. AVID, Project Based Learning, Arts Integration, PBIS and Restorative Practices are among the key signature practices that our students are able to embrace.

The 2018-2019 school year brings the opportunity to continue our quest for excellence by providing innovative and engaging approaches. Our staff is fully committed to provide the best education to all our students.

**Thank you for reading *School News!***

## Garvey School District

2730 N. Del Mar Avenue, Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3444 • www.garvey.k12.ca.us

### Growing 21st Century Leaders



**Anita Chu**  
Superintendent

Garvey School District serves a richly diverse community covering portions of Monterey Park, Rosemead, and San Gabriel. The District has eight elementary and two intermediate schools serving approximately 5,000 Preschool through Grade 8 students, with preschool on each elementary school campus.

Leadership development is the heart of the District's vision. The staff is committed to nurturing and growing leaders who are academically competent and morally driven to advance the global society in the 21st century.

To realize this vision for all students, each so uniquely gifted, the District devotes to building critical academic, social-emotional, technological, and multicultural pathways. The development of 4C's through the Common Core State Standards and holistic education invigorates student learning in all disciplines. Cultivating the "Leader in Me" provides an asset-rich environment for leaders-in-training. The ever-expanding technology integration, with the support of computer science programs and Maker Space, is transforming the schools into 21st Century learning centers. The Dual Language+ Programs, implemented beginning 2018-19, further promote multilingualism and multiculturalism. Together, these pathways take our student leaders to reach their educational, career, and life goals.

The task is too important and too challenging to be taken alone. The District is creating impactful synergy by strengthening partnerships with parents and the community. A variety of advisory committees and parent institutes are provided to foster parent empowerment. Partnerships with business partners and community agencies and the passage of a school bond in 2016 bring in additional fiscal and personnel resources and connect classroom learning with real world application. With compelling shared vision, innovative programs, and extensive partnerships, Garvey continues to thrive as a 21st Century learning academy, growing leaders equipped to meet the 21st Century challenges.

## Glendora Unified School District

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

### Enthusiasm for Excellence!



**Dr. Robert Voors**  
Superintendent

The Glendora Unified School District has been recognized as one of the premier school districts in the state of California for decades, and nurtures a culture of success in all areas of schools life. Each year, the Washington Post, U.S. News & World Report and Newsweek, each rank Glendora High School as one of the best high schools in the United States; we are an AP District of Distinction and now will offer the prestigious AP Capstone program. We had the highest ranking possible in, "Where Are the Nation's Most Productive School Districts?" Our students routinely engage in project-based learning and solve real world problems.

Glendora is a District of California Distinguished Schools and California Gold Ribbon Schools where staff, students, parents, and community work together to provide a caring learning environment for all our students. Volunteerism is alive and well in Glendora, where additional support is revealed through our spirited PTA's, the Glendora Education Foundation, and numerous active community service groups.

In addition to world class academics, we offer exceptional, well-rounded educational experiences for nearly 7,600 Pre-K-12 students that include CIF Championship athletic programs and award-winning bands, orchestras and choirs. 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 our dedicated and talented teachers, support staff, administrators and school board. The Glendora experience is one of commitment to, enthusiasm for, and pride in excellence!

## Glendale Unified School District

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

### Maximizing Academic Outcomes



**Winfred B. Roberson**  
Superintendent

Glendale Unified School District seeks to maximize academic outcomes for our diverse student population by fostering a culture of caring, trust, and inquiry. GUSD remains the ideal choice for parents seeking an exceptional, accomplished school district that is committed to engaging students and families. Realtors and local businesses report that the positive reputation of Glendale schools is often a motivating factor when choosing to move to Glendale.

Nine GUSD schools have earned the U.S. Office of Education's highest designation, the National Blue Ribbon. All GUSD secondary schools (four middle and four high schools) and 10 of our district's elementary schools have been named California Gold Ribbon Schools. Additionally, 25 GUSD schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools and 17 of our district's 18 Title I schools have been named Title I Achieving Schools. In 2016, GUSD was named a Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) Honor Roll District and 18 GUSD schools were recognized as CBEE Honor Roll schools. This year, Mann Elementary received the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Golden Bell Award for implementation of their PLC Plus program.

GUSD Foreign Language Academies of Glendale (FLAG) offer dual language immersion programs in Armenian, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean and Spanish. Additionally, our district offers extensive Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, including animation, cinematography, manufacturing, automotive, building construction, cosmetology, culinary arts, public safety, robotics engineering, and biotechnology.

Our schools are committed to offering the highest quality instructional and support programs on campuses that are safe and secure. At GUSD, we prepare our students for their future.

## Gorman Joint School District

49847 Gorman School Rd., P.O. Box 104, Gorman, CA 93243 • 661/248-6441 • <http://gorman.k12.ca.us>

### Providing A Rigorous Education



**Johannis Andrews**  
Superintendent

The Gorman Joint School District is located at the southern tip of the beautiful Tehachapi Mountains, 60 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Gorman Joint School District has one K-8 school with 95 students and five teachers. The small size of Gorman Elementary School makes it possible to have an individualized nurturing environment in each classroom where the average class size is 24 students. Gorman Joint School District is a District of Choice where any parent can chose to enroll their children during an enrollment period. Gorman remains committed to effective teaching and learning while providing children with a rigorous education. The forefront of our work for 2017 is our dedication in providing visual and performing arts, STEAM and PBIS programs for our students.

One of our greatest resources is a staff that has dedicated themselves to helping students achieve great success at school and home. We consistently strive to provide our students with a high quality education that appropriately meets their academic needs, but acknowledge that a quality experience must go beyond just the classroom. With the goal of preparing students to succeed in the 21st century, Gorman provides educational lessons that are engaging, collaborating, creative, and standards-based in all academic areas while providing enrichment and intervention support throughout the day.

The Gorman School District is known for having a very supportive Board. The Board has adopted four guiding principles that will help to propel the 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.

## Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

15959 E. Gale Avenue, City of Industry, CA 91716 • 626/933-1000 • www.hlpusd.org

### Ensuring Access to Quality Education



**Cynthia Parulan-Colfer**  
Superintendent

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD) is a leader in building the foundation that students need to become successful scholars. Our District serves a very diverse student population, from Transitional Kindergarten to Adult Education and one of our main priorities continues to be ensuring inclusion and access to quality education for every student that walks into our district. In fact, HLPUSD is one of only 130 school districts in the entire country being recognized for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students.

We are very proud of the continued success of our schools, two of which have been designated as National Blue Ribbon School, 13 Gold Ribbon Schools, and three high schools that have been honored in the *U.S. News and World Report* among the best high schools in the nation.

Our District continues to provide students with innovative programs such as our award-winning dual immersion programs that offer students the opportunity to take classes and learn in four languages. The District also operates the second largest adult education program in the state, currently serving over 14,000 students and offering career development in programs that range from culinary arts to certified nursing assistant, automotive repair, and more.

We are proud of the positive impact we have on our students' lives. It would not be possible without the hard work of our students, their teachers, administrators and support staff members. There is a lot in store for 2018 and we look forward to continuing to provide the highest quality of education, while prioritizing access and inclusion for all.

## Hawthorne School District

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

### A Focused Approach



**Dr. Helen E. Morgan**  
Superintendent

The Hawthorne School District is nestled in the heart of the South Bay. We proudly serve the families of nearly 8,700 students through our three preschool programs, seven elementary schools, three middle schools, and one high school. I am proud to work with a staff and a school board who place students at the heart of all we do.

We continue to maintain a focus on our vision of, "A diverse community of lifelong learners who excel and positively contribute to an advancing global society." Without a plan for providing our students with the tools necessary to achieve success in college and/or career we would not realize the successes we have. Utilizing our LCAP and our Strategic Plan we center our efforts on all students succeeding. We continue to provide engaging learning experiences through our academies that focus on the fine arts, the sciences, and business. We are using technology to reach out to our youngest learners and help them to build literacy skills before they enter our schools. We are engaging families and the community to build a network committed to the success of our students.

We know that the children are our future. We are investing in a focused approach to ensure our children experience success for their future and the future of our society as a whole. I am proud to be part of this important work.

**Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn. — Benjamin Franklin**

## Hermosa Beach City School District

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

### Vision of Excellence for All Students



**Patricia W. Escalante**  
Superintendent

The Hermosa Beach City School District is a K-8 system that is bursting at the seams with learners. The high level of excellence in learning that the Hermosa Beach City School District offers is a reflection of the collective leadership to focus on continuing to build strong educational partnerships with the city, businesses, charitable and service organizations. The "one voice, one focus" commitment of our community to the academic success of all students is stronger than ever and families are moving to Hermosa Beach to be a part of a very special educational experience.

The outstanding work of our students, teachers, parents, and administrators is reflected in the California State Dashboard data, which reports on the academic achievement of students in the areas of English Language Arts and Math. Equally outstanding are the District's signature practices that focus on emotional and physical wellness and the belief that the best education is one that focuses on the development of the whole child.

During these rapidly changing instructional times, the District has strengthened its partnership with the Beach Cities Health District, and members of the community to implement the following additional programs to their children: prevention of cyberbullying, MindUp, and the Garden Program. Through HBCSD Families Connected, resources are available such as speaker's series, video links, and parent chat groups, to support parents in their efforts to help their kids reach their full potential and live healthy, fulfilled lives.

This year, the Board participated in an extensive process to update the vision and mission of the district and design a new logo that represents the evolution of learning. In the heart of Hermosa Beach we are reminded that "Where there is no vision, the people perish". Excellent schools are a reflection of an excellent community. Join us in the support of our vision of excellence for all students.

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## Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District

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

### A County School by the Lakes



**Dr. Lori Slaven**  
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 in Northern Los Angeles County. We serve 200 students from the mountain communities of Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lake, Green Valley, and Pine Canyon. The Elizabeth Lake School District was formed in 1874, the Lake Hughes School District was formed in 1899. The two districts formed a union in 1950.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes is “Family-Centered” and fosters every child and stakeholder to be part of a community of learners in the District. We offer small class sizes with a dedicated group of teachers and staff.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes also serve students from neighboring communities in the Antelope Valley. We are a District of Choice where any parent in Los Angeles and Kern Counties can choose to enroll their children during open enrollment. We offer in-school intervention to support our core instructional program. Teachers and staff collaborate to improve their practice so that we may continue to improve to serve our students. Parents and community members are an important part of our school culture and community. We have an active P.T.A. and dedicated volunteers who support our students and school. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes is a wonderful school to learn, work, and grow. County Living, 21st Century Education.

Our vision at Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes School is to provide an excellent education in an atmosphere that supports students as they develop into outstanding members of the community. Our mission is to enable our students to reach the highest levels of achievement. This goal is obtained through a total commitment to the ongoing success of each student and through open and honest communication within our school community.

## Keppel Union School District

34004 128th Street East, P.O. Box 186, Pearblossom, CA 93553 • 661/944-2155 • www.keppel.k12.ca.us

### Personalized Learning



**Dr. Ruben Zepeda II**  
Superintendent

Keppel Union is the hidden gem in the Antelope Valley. As a smaller school district, we provide a personalized learning experience and a high quality education to students from diverse backgrounds.

Our District’s mission for educating all students is to seek education, strive for excellence, and aspire to greatness. Our classified, certificated and administrative staff creates and ensures a positive learning environment where student safety, academic success, and social and emotional needs are our highest priorities.

We promote inspired learning focused on creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, effective communication, collaboration and other 21st Century skills. Students are taught by skilled teachers who use researched based instructional strategies supported with academically rigorous standards based curricula. All teachers regularly engage in discussions centered on data analysis with the goal of continuous improvement. Ultimately we prepare students to be successful learners, college and career ready and for life as productive contributing citizens.

Keppel Union engages parents as partners through a variety of venues including surveys, family activities and special events so that we can better serve our families. Our Local Control Accountability Plan reflects the priorities of our families and community while addressing state accountability expectations. We celebrate each of our schools’ successes including two California Distinguished Schools and other award winning programs. Students thrive in our schools where their personal interest in music, STEAM, the arts, AVID, media production and other specialized programs challenge and motivate them. Our parents know that successful, personalized learning is the key to a better and brighter future for their children and help us maintain a commitment to excellence for all of our students.

I am proud to say that in the Keppel Union School District, our values, commitments and priorities help us achieve the absolute best outcomes for the children in our care.

## Inglewood Unified School District

401 South Inglewood Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301 • 310/419-2700 • http://iusd.net

### Moving Forward Together for Success



**Dr. Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana**  
State Trustee

The mission of the Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD) is to ensure that all of our students are taught rigorous standards-based curriculum, supported by highly qualified staff in an exemplary educational system characterized by high student achievement, social development, safe schools and effective partnerships with all segments of the community.

In the past year, our school district has witnessed a wide variety of accomplishments. Our students have shown both growth and excellence in academics, performing arts, practical arts, and athletics in a manner that should make our community extremely proud. Many individual and team performances within the past year have established a new level of excellence for students in all of our schools. There are wonderful things happening in IUSD that are worth repeating. Our community partners are working closely with us to develop viable pathways for students to gain real life learning in STEAM and robotics. We have opened our first 6th grade academy at Monroe STEM Academy, which is the first phase of the reimagining of schools in IUSD.

Inglewood Unified is home to 12 elementary and six secondary schools. Six of our primary schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools and one has earned the national Blue Ribbon School distinction. As we enter Phase 2 of IUSD’s Strategic Planning process, our priorities define explicit strategies and action steps for improving the effectiveness of our educational programs and services; including ongoing collaboration with Inglewood’s diverse stakeholders.

We are moving forward together with an educational vision that supports student learning and drives our program and facilities alignment. Having a vision with everyone working toward the same goal is essential to student success and returning the district to local control.

## La Cañada Unified School District

4490 Cornishon Avenue, La Canada, CA 91011 • 818/952-8300 • www.lcusd.net

### Our Success is Intentional



**Wendy Sinnette**  
Superintendent

La Cañada Unified School District is a learning community committed to personal growth and academic excellence. Part of the fabric of the community, La Cañada schools inspire a national standard for high academic achievement, citizenship, and student well-being. LCUSD empowers children, educators, families and communities. Our success is intentional.

The district operates three elementary schools and a combined 7-12 school. Current student enrollment is approximately 4100. Each school in the district has developed an “Every Student Succeeds” plan and has adopted Stanford’s Challenge Success initiative to ensure that all students receive appropriate support in mastering academic standards and in developing their social, emotional, and physical health and resilience.

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 La Cañada Educational Foundation which contributes over 2 million dollars annually to the district and the active volunteerism and program support by the PTA at each school site and the Spartan Boosters at LCHS 7-12.

Approximately 99% 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 (2015) and one elementary school (2013) have been named National Blue Ribbon schools. La Cañada High School 7/8 was named a National Forum “School to Watch” school in 2014 and 2017, and all four schools have been designated as California Distinguished Schools and as Gold Medal winners by California Business for Education Excellence.

## Las Virgenes Unified School District

4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302 • 818/880-4000 • [www.lvusd.org](http://www.lvusd.org)

### Award Winning School District



**Dr. Daniel D. Stepenosky**  
Superintendent

Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) consists of eight elementary schools, one K-8 school, three middle schools, two high schools, and a district-wide preschool program. The District serves approximately 11,500 students in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village.

Las Virgenes receives tremendous support from the community as evidenced by the recent renewal of the District's parcel tax, which passed with 78.8% of the vote. The District is in the process of completing a comprehensive modernization plan utilizing a \$128 million bond passed by our citizens. The cornerstone of the bond activity has been the creation of two cutting edge performing arts education centers that not only support our world-class theater, drama, dance and music programs, but are valuable instructional platforms as well. They also serve as learning centers for our schools and cultural touchstones for the entire community.

Las Virgenes high schools have received silver medals from *U.S. News and World Report* for "Best High Schools," and we have been named to the National College Board Annual AP District Honor Roll for expanding student participation, especially among our subpopulations, in our AP program. Las Virgenes has a wide variety of options for our students that include Dual-Immersion English and Spanish programs at the elementary and middle school levels, the High School International Baccalaureate Program, the Arts and Media Academy, a Waldorf-inspired school, and arts-embedded elementary programs.

In the Las Virgenes Unified School District, we strongly invest in the social and emotional well-being of our students through our Student 360 initiative, and have invested heavily in our counseling staff. We have one of the the lowest student-to-counselor ratios in the region. Please go to our website at [www.lvusd.org](http://www.lvusd.org) to learn more about our district.

## Lawndale Elementary School District

4161 W. 147th Street, Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/973-1300 • [www.lawndale.k12.ca.us](http://www.lawndale.k12.ca.us)

### Students at the Center



**Dr. Betsy Hamilton**  
Superintendent

Lawndale Elementary School District leaders put students at the center of every decision we make. Our goals reflect this commitment: increasing academic achievement; ensuring access and equity; improving parent and student engagement; and providing 21st century learning environments.

Our number one focus is continuous improvement of our instructional programs, and instructional coaches at each school support teachers' knowledge and skills. Our Preschool Program and our all-day TK and Kindergarten programs ensure our earliest learners are off to a great start! To be successful in college and careers, students need more than academics. With the support of Social Workers and interns at every school, LESD creates safe and nurturing school environments where students thrive socially and emotionally.

Parents are valuable partners in LESD! Each school has a Community Liaison to ensure parents are informed and engaged in our schools. We have a robust parent volunteer program and numerous educational opportunities in the evenings. Parents are also an essential part of decision-making through participation in district committees.

Providing access and equity for all students goes beyond the instructional day. Our outstanding extended day program, RAP - Realizing Amazing Potential - has a 'STEAM' focus with 21st century learning that includes coding and 'tinkering' classes. Our middle schools have state-of-the art Library Media Centers and 1:1 computer programs to support 21st Century Learning and extend learning beyond school hours.

Working together and keeping students at the center of our decisions makes Lawndale Elementary School District a great place for students, staff and parents to learn and grow!

## Lancaster School District

44711 N. Cedar Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93534 • 661/948-4661 • [www.lancaster.k12.ca.us](http://www.lancaster.k12.ca.us)

### Committed to Options and Excellence



**Dr. Michele Bowers**  
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. Educating Antelope Valley youth since 1881, we continually strive to ensure options and excellence in educational opportunities for the more than 15,000 students that we serve each and every day.

Our District has five middle schools, thirteen elementary schools and alternative programs that provide home school, a blended virtual academy, and alternative education. In addition, we serve over 700 students in our preschool program. Focused on 21st century skills, college and career readiness, and acquisition of core knowledge, Lancaster School District is a district that is making GREAT things happen for every child – every day!

Educational programs emphasize foundational skills through engaging, standards-based lessons in core content areas. In addition to our core classes, students may participate in: STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), Music, Foreign Language, Dual Language Immersion, Visual and Performing Arts, Sports and other exciting elective and enrichment programs.

Lancaster School District maintains an uncompromising commitment to provide all students the knowledge and skills that they need to explore a multitude of options for college and career success in the 21st Century. Our district's Strategic Plan is designed to "chart our course" as we continue to enhance our practices and programs to promote continuous improvement and ensure equity, access and engaging learning experiences for all students.

## Lennox School District

10319 Firmona Avenue, Lennox, CA 90304 • 310/695-4060 • [www.lennox.k12.ca.us](http://www.lennox.k12.ca.us)

### On the Flight Path to Success



**Kent Taylor**  
Superintendent

The Lennox School District is located in a 1.3 square mile unincorporated area of Lennox, which is directly east of the Los Angeles International Airport. It serves approximately 5,000 students. Each elementary school offers a preschool program and the Lennox Enrichment After-School Program (LEAP). Our staff is hardworking, dedicated and passionate with a vested interest in providing the best education possible to our students.

To further enhance learning opportunities, the Lennox School District proudly opened a School of Dentistry program at three Elementary Schools. Moffett, Jefferson and Dolores Huerta are the home of our dentistry program. The program provides students with access to medical professionals and mentorship. With the help of an accredited dentist, this unique program gives students a deep and hands-on look into the medical field of dentistry.

Our School of Engineering program continues to be offered at Buford, Felton and Lennox Middle School. To enhance the rigor and real world application of the program, full-time engineers work collaboratively with teachers to create engineering design lessons that meet California State standards and Next Generation Science Standards. Teachers provide students with a rigorous curriculum that prepares them to be socially responsible, globally aware and locally engaged.

We look forward to expanding our career pathways and launching a School of Business program in 2019.

The organized collaboration of administrators, teachers, staff, community members, parents and students is providing the path for our students to perform at the highest level and become global leaders.

Lennox is a proud District and community with students on the flight path to success.

## Little Lake City School District

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

### Students First, Whatever It Takes



**Dr. William Crean**  
Superintendent

The Little Lake City School District continues its history of educational excellence. Serving the communities of Santa Fe Springs, northern Norwalk and a segment of Downey, the district educates approximately 4,500 students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade at seven elementary schools and two middle schools.

Little Lake is proud of our achievements. All nine schools have been named California Gold Ribbon Schools and California Title I Academic Achievement Award Schools. Both middle schools have also been recognized as national “Schools to Watch.” The personal, emotional and social development of our students are supported through counseling services at all sites, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) plans at all elementary and middle schools, family outreach and close ties to city services and support..

The Little Lake teachers and staff are Fantastic! Not only are they highly qualified by state and national standards, they are caring, knowledgeable and effective in educating our students and in building their self-esteem as solid citizens and capable learners. Little Lake teachers truly exemplify our district beliefs: Students First! Results Matter! Whatever It Takes!

Driving the district’s success are a cohesive and focused governance team, highly qualified and dedicated administrators, a district office staff that consistently supports both the district as a whole as well as each of the nine school sites, and a community of parents and guardians that actively engage with us as partners in educating their children and supporting our schools.

Our focus on learning, collaboration, and results drives our daily work as a Professional Learning Community. By continuing to focus on our students’ needs, the Little Lake City School District is committed to maintaining the educational quality that makes our schools “distinguished.”

## Long Beach Unified School District

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

### Dreaming Big Requires a Plan



**Christopher J. Steinhäuser**  
Superintendent

In the Long Beach Unified School District, our daily work is guided by our vital mission: to support the personal and intellectual success of every student, every day. The families we serve have big hopes and dreams for their children. We share those hopes and dreams, so we take great care when developing our plans and allocating resources. Our plans are detailed in a 250-page state-required document known as the Local Control and Accountability Plan, or LCAP. Many people aren’t inclined to read all that fine print, so starting in February, we began sharing highlights of our LCAP by distributing a series of publications covering topics from academic achievement, to basic services and programs that encourage parent involvement. All of these topics are covered under the LCAP, which includes specific goals and actions.

Included in our reports are some encouraging results of our efforts so far. Our work is paying off with significant gains in student success, including higher graduation rates, more students completing college entrance requirements, and far more students taking Advanced Placement college preparatory courses and exams. Much of the credit for that success goes to the diverse group of school and community representatives who spend many hours providing us input as we refine our plans and continue to improve, year after year.

If you missed our publications, you can still find them on our website at lbschools.net in English and Spanish under the Local Control Funding section.

Thank you to everyone who supports our students and schools. Together, we’ll keep dreaming big.

## Los Angeles Unified School District

333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90017 • 213/241-1000 • www.lausd.net

### Building Bridges to Student Success



**Vivian Ekchian**  
Interim Superintendent

In the Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation’s second-largest school district, we strive for nothing less than excellence for every student, and we are keenly focused on preparing students to be globally competitive. Our families are our valued partners in this momentous work. We embrace our diversity and enthusiastically welcome students and families from any and all backgrounds.

It is imperative that we continue to use student achievement data to guide our efforts and to focus our limited resources on the areas of greatest need. We continually reflect upon our practices and create strategies for changing those that are not producing results. We also remain committed to transparency regarding our expectations, goals and progress so that we can work collaboratively as one unified family to succeed.

Our focus remains on continuing our upward trajectory toward our goal of 100 percent graduation. We are targeting early literacy and improved attendance while providing wrap-around services for students who need supports above and beyond instruction.

We are also working together as a diverse team to support student learning in order to foster outstanding, globally competent, biliterate graduates. By leveraging the strengths of our stakeholders, we can create the environments that support far-reaching success.

We remain resolute in ensuring equal and equitable access to rigorous instruction in every classroom, regardless of a student’s zip code or socioeconomic status. L.A. Unified will continue to provide our students with the knowledge and global skills they will need to thrive in college, career, and life.

## Los Nietos School District

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

### Challenging. Inspiring. Engaging.



**Jonathan Vasquez**  
Superintendent

The Los Nietos School District is dedicated to “Building Our Community Through Education.” Our District’s initiatives inspire students, challenge them academically, and engage them and our community in meaningful ways. Prior to the start of this school year, all of our educators participated in a two-day professional development to insure Los Nietos classrooms offer a nurturing environment conducive to learning and excelling in the attainment of the California State Standards. Learning the CHAMPS model from the Safe and Civil Schools program insures that all employees are trained uniformly in the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) system, a program that uses systematic techniques to help foster respectful and responsible behavior.

We are excited to see the continued student academic growth that we saw last year when our teachers first began using materials from our two new textbook adoptions. Schools have infused technology to support instruction, with all students in third through eighth grade having their own Chrome book to use. The technology access provides a strong foundation for our student’s preparation as they enter the Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Academy at the Los Nietos Middle School. Through our middle school’s Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program, students build STEAM-related projects, compete, and routinely place against other middle schools at regional competitions in Riverside County.

Our partnerships with Rio Hondo College, the LA County Public Library, and our network of regional health partners insures that growth opportunities throughout this community are not just for our students but for all members of the Los Nietos community.

## Lowell Joint School District

11019 Valley Home Avenue, Whittier, CA 90603 • 562/943-0211 • www.ljsd.org

### District of Destination



**Jim Coombs**  
Superintendent

The Lowell Joint School District strives to be among the leading districts throughout the State of California as we hold true to our traditional American core values since 1906. Our students receive a quality education from outstanding teachers whose #1 priority is the success of their students. This success is evident in the fact that the students of Lowell, at all grade levels, exceed the scores of Los Angeles and Orange County as well as the State of California.

We are honored to serve the families from the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier, where every school is a Golden Ribbon, Distinguished, and California Business Excellence School. Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School is recognized as a “Schools to Watch” and a 2017 CSBA Golden Bell award winner. The importance of education, family, and traditional American values are bedrock to the Lowell Joint School District as is our emphasis on higher education, personal integrity, and Character Education.

Specialized academic programs are provided at all schools for all students such as: 1:1 instructional technology (3-8), vocal music (TK-8), instrumental music (6-8), art (TK-8), robotics (TK-8), coding (3-8), STEAM Innovation Labs (TK-8), and strings (4-8). Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School is proud to provide students with enhanced educational opportunities through the Pre-AP/IB Honors Academy, Conservatory of the Arts (COFA), AP Computer Science, Robotics and Engineering, Audio Engineering, and Green Architecture. Each of these programs prepares our students to transition into our local high schools and on to post-secondary education.

Lowell continues to focus on 21st Century learning, while assuring we keep our attention on the whole child. This ensures our students have the foundation to be globally competitive and grounded in their traditional American values. Together, it is the people of Lowell Joint that make Lowell a District of Destination for our community.

## Manhattan Beach Unified School District

325 Peck Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 • 310/3189545 • www.mbusd.org

### For Us It's Personal



**Dr. Michael D. Matthews**  
Superintendent

Manhattan Beach Unified School District is fortunate to be supported by a community that values the importance of a high-performing public school system. We have achieved national success and recognition in academics, arts, athletics, and sustainability, and because of this, many residents cite our schools as the primary reason for moving to Manhattan Beach.

Our instructional focus this year continues to be on Personalized Learning. Everything we have been doing over the last six years has been to better personalize learning for our students. We have identified key themes to our Personalized Learning efforts and our teachers are putting incredible thought into how to weave these themes into all that they do, from the moment they meet their students through all of the instructional content they will deliver over the course of the year. It helps our students to be better learners who are more prepared to be successful in their future endeavors.

Our school board adopted Inclusion as a goal last year. All of us in MBUSD are committed to making our district a place where every student feels welcome, supported, encouraged, and safe. We have partnered with South Bay Families Connected and Beach Cities Health District to connect our families with current information, resources and effective parenting tools to address the challenges facing today's students. To us, success is not limited to academic or extracurricular achievements. It means that all students are healthy, happy and able to thrive, in and out of school.

## Lynwood Unified School District

11321 Bullis Road, Lynwood, CA 90262 • 310/886-1600 • www.mylusd.org

### Focused on Student Success



**Dr. Gudiel R. Crosthwaite**  
Superintendent

At Lynwood Unified, we are committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to find their life's passion while reaching their college and career aspirations. Our mission is to ensure each student fearlessly achieves his or her highest academic and personal aspirations while contributing to the greater society through a unique system distinguished by people of great character who inspire and lead by example; the instilling of courage to be creative; the transformative uses of technology; safe and clean environments and the honoring of all voices of our community.

Lynwood Unified serves more than 15,000 students through 12 elementary schools, three middle schools and three high schools in addition to preschool, adult and independent study programs. Our programs give students the opportunity to delve deeper into the topics that interest them most while still completing the requirements for promotion, graduation and admittance into some of the nation's top colleges and universities.

Our District's hard work was recognized by the College Board which named Lynwood Unified one of just three 2017 National Advanced Placement Districts of the Year. The honor acknowledged our efforts to significantly increase the number of students taking AP exams, while simultaneously increasing pass rates.

Our career technical education pathways branch out into our middle and elementary schools, helping students determine which profession they might want to follow once they enter high school. Our high school pathways include manufacturing and engineering, biomedicine and nursing, media and design arts, performing arts, photography, culinary arts and automotive.

The District's emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects has expanded with an elementary robotics course and a TK-2 iPad initiative, which gets younger students involved in computer coding through games and robots.

## Monrovia Unified School District

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

### Developing Lifelong Learners



**Dr. Katherine Thorossian**  
Superintendent

Monrovia Unified provides an exceptional academic environment - inspiring students to satisfy their innate curiosity by asking questions and experimenting. Their ability to apply their knowledge and utilize the resources around them will carry with them far beyond high school success. Student learning at each grade level builds on their previous learning experiences, while instruction is tailored to meet each student's skill level.

Our elementary school students are setting their foundations in core subjects while being exposed to a rigorous curriculum in coding, language immersion, and the arts. They deepen their knowledge in middle school to expand these experiences into relevant skills, including using engineering and computer science skills to build robots for regional, national, and international competitions. They collaborate with their peers to build a positive school environment while learning essential leadership qualities.

Once they reach high school, they have the advantage of choosing from specialized pathways to help guide them to potential careers after high school, whether they continue their education at four-year universities, enter trade schools, or enter the work force.

Our schools are filled with skilled and experienced educators who are passionate about leading each generation to become responsible citizens of their community. Our teachers have taught families across generational lines, remembering the parent as a student and demonstrating that their support transcends time. They inspire students to follow in their footsteps, to become the next generation of leaders within our schools.

Before our students toss their graduation caps to celebrate their final day as Monrovia Unified students, they will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to lead successful lives. I am proud to be a part of this strong school district committed to the success of every student.

## Montebello Unified School District

123 S. Montebello Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640 • 323/887-7900 • www.montebello.k12.ca.us

### Focused on Student Success



**Dr. Anthony J. Martinez**  
Superintendent

Montebello Unified School District (MUSD) is a school district based in Montebello, California and serves the city of Montebello, portions of the cities of Bell Gardens, Commerce, Downey, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera, Rosemead, and a part of the unincorporated community of East Los Angeles as well as the unincorporated community of South San Gabriel.

Montebello Unified is a learning organization that provides a variety of educational programs including Head Start, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Pregnant and Parenting Program, Career Technical Education, and Advanced Placement (AP).

Some of our most recent accomplishments/highlights include: Vail High School was recently designated as a Model Continuation High School (MCHS) for 2018 by State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) Tom Torlakson. Bell Gardens High School was revalidated as an AVID National Demonstration School. The Applied Technology Center High School provides excellent opportunities via pathways to students who are interested in pursuing a career in one of the four areas: Architecture, Construction Management, and Engineering; Culinary, Hospitality, and Event Management; Health Sciences; Public Legal Services. Montebello High School is working alongside East Los Angeles College to strengthen our Dual/Concurrent Enrollment program whereby students are offered free college courses at the high school campus.

Recently the Montebello Board of Education honored me by appointing me to serve as the permanent Superintendent of Schools for the Montebello Unified School District (MUSD). I'm truly humbled that the MUSD Board entrusted me to work with the parents, as well as with students, teachers, administrators and classified staff, to carry out the District's vision of providing a quality education to its approximately 27,000, K-12 students.

## Newhall School District

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

### Working Strategically and Getting Results



**Paul Cordeiro**  
Superintendent

In 2017, the Newhall School District, again, ran the table on CAASPP testing. For the third consecutive year, its scores were the highest in every grade and subject in the Santa Clarita Valley and, by far, higher than LA County and the State (see results on our website). Notable was our huge jump in math scores pushing us head and shoulders above everyone else.

Question: How are you doing it? Answer: We keep on it, over multiple years, providing unceasing support, the best new materials, and obsessive oversight, to wit:

- We selected and trained four teachers on special assignment (math coaches) who modeled lessons, assisted with lesson planning, created assessments and, overall, helped teachers improve their practice.
- We hired an expert math consultant, Sarah Schuhl of Solution Tree, who mentored our coaches and worked directly with grade level teachers to help them master math content, organize lessons using our newly adopted math programs (Bridges and College Preparatory Math), and learn researched-based pedagogy.
- We made sure that our math programs were implemented with fidelity.
- We created formative and summative assessments, administered on-line, and carefully monitored results through our grade level PLCs.
- We provided training to new teachers and to teachers changing grade levels.
- We involved our site administrators at every step in the process.

Substitute another challenge (e.g., accelerating ELs' progress toward reclassification) and the strategy will be the same. We set clear goals. We implement. We stay focused. We review/revise.

Newhall's method is working and 2018 results will be even better.

## Mountain View School District

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

### Inspiring Each Student to Succeed Every Day



**Lillian Maldonado French**  
Superintendent

The Mountain View School District is a K-8 district located in El Monte and is dedicated to preparing today's students and tomorrow's leaders for success. Following our mission to inspire each student to succeed every day, our MVSD team, 12 schools, alternative education center and Children's Center/Head Start program are strongly committed to supporting the academic, social and emotional growth and achievement of all students.

At MVSD we are equipping our students with 21st century skills and preparing them to be future leaders and positive contributors to their community. Through programs like STEM, Project Lead the Way, AVID, Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Visual and Performing Arts, and our elementary counseling program, we support the development of the whole child.

MVSD is home to future collegiate scholars as a college-bound culture is promoted among all students and with our families through a variety of programs including GEAR Up, the Partnership Scholars Program, Parent Institute for Quality Education, Scholars Savings Program and No Excuses University.

MVSD is committed to making a positive difference in the life of each student we serve by providing curriculum, classrooms, programs and leadership that inspires lifelong learning. Our goal continues to be for all students, from preschool to eighth grade, to achieve their highest potential as they are engaged, supported and challenged at school each day.

## Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

12820 Pioneer Blvd., La Mirada, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org

### Programs and Progress Continue



**Dr. Hasmik Danielian**  
Superintendent

#### Every Student, Future Ready, Our Promise!

That's the pledge and mission of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District as we continue to provide high-quality education programs and opportunities for nearly 18,000 K-12 students.

We are proud of the daily achievements of our students, which are all possible thanks to the exceptional support, dedication, and caring attitude of our teachers and staff who bring passion every day to our classrooms and school campuses.

I am particularly excited about the outreach campaigns welcoming children and families into the district, including magnet expos for our middle schools and open house orientations for our comprehensive high schools.

Additionally, I am pleased to share information on the successful integration of our five-year technology plan — the 2020 Learning Initiative — providing students equitable access to devices to enhance their learning experience and academic achievement.

Our annual Principal for a Day program invites community members to volunteer for a half-day of service as a guest principal in one of our schools and to experience what's great about them — such as courses in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and classes in VAPA (visual and performing arts).

A major accomplishment for us is the exterior renovation work taking place at several campuses. A "makeover" of the kindergarten playground was recently completed at Dulles Elementary School and new construction projects have begun for athletic facilities and fields at John Glenn High School, Corvallis Middle School and Benton Middle School. Much of this work is funded through Measure G, the bond approved by district voters in 2014.

I'm happy to confirm that, YES, we are indeed keeping our promise of preparing our students to create their best possible futures.

## Palmdale School District

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

### Palmdale Promise



**Raul Maldonado**  
Superintendent

As part of Palmdale School District's strategic plan name 'Palmdale Promise', we are making great progress reaching our objectives and goals. The Palmdale Promise has made an impact throughout our schools, departments, offices, community and city. La Promesa de Palmdale has created a sense of pride, team, commitment, responsibility and identity in our district.

We have identified five strategic goals, which form the framework for powerful and sustainable district transformation. Recommended actions have been identified for each of these strategic goals. We will:

1. Dramatically improve student engagement and achievement through access to powerful learning opportunities.
2. Create and sustain globally-competitive learning environments of high intellectual performance across the curriculum and in all areas needed for 21st century success for students, including the opportunity for development of high levels of multilingual and STEAM competencies.
3. Provide strategic direction and support to district administrators, principals, teachers, and sites focused on improving the quality of classroom instruction and interaction in every classroom in every school.
4. Create and support safe, affirming, equitable, and enriched globally-competitive school environments for participatory, restorative, inclusive, and culturally and linguistically responsive learning and interaction for students.
5. Engage diverse families and communities in powerful learning and collaboration.

As part of our plan, we have been writing grants to support our implementation. Therefore, we are very glad to announce that on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) Federal Office notified Palmdale that our MSAP grant was funded. Palmdale will receive \$15,000,000 over five years. The purpose of the grant is to reduce or eliminate minority group isolation. The grant will help us achieve equity across our middle schools —the Palmdale Promise.

## Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District

375 Via Almar, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274 • 310/378-9966 • www.pvpusd.net

### School Safety Top Priority



**Dr. Donald Austin**  
Superintendent

In this edition of the *School News Roll Call* my message is dedicated to the topic of school safety. In the wake of another national tragedy, we believe there is an opportunity to engage in a different level conversation about how to protect and empower our students. For a myriad of reasons, the most recent event in Florida has seemed to create a tipping point in the national dialogue. As always, I am confident that the next right answers will come from engaging our kids, partnering with our communities, and educating our staff.

If meaningful change is to come about, we should use this time to reflect with purpose and plan strategically. Quick decisions made during times of emotion rarely lead to the best outcomes. Instead, we need to fully evaluate our support systems for students, campus security, response plans with local agencies, and clear expectations from all involved with our schools. To this end, we already had plans in place for drills that happen to land in the very near future on our sites. In the event of an emergency, we believe that there should be no doubt as to the desired response. Training is within our control and is taken seriously.

No security system or perimeter fence is as effective as sharing information. We encourage everyone to speak with your site leaders if you have concerns about your own children or believe you have information that is important to share. Schools should be full of laughter and happy memories. We are committed to protecting your children as our top priority. Thank you for trusting us with your kids and helping us to maintain some of the safest schools in the nation.

## Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91109 • 626/396-3600 • www.pusd.us

### Boundless Opportunities



**Dr. Brian McDonald**  
Superintendent

The Pasadena Unified School District is preparing graduates who are academically prepared to excel in college and the workplace. The preK-12 schools of Pasadena Unified are igniting curiosity for learning in the science, arts, and global languages. With our location in Southern California's center for science, exploration, and the arts, our students have remarkable opportunities to acquire deeper knowledge, explore challenges, and develop solutions.

New graduation requirements in line with our district's graduate profile ensure that students are prepared with advanced skills to excel in higher education and the global economy. In addition to earning credits for required courses, students must complete hours of community service or work-based learning, submit a graduate portfolio, and present a graduate defense before a panel of industry experts.

The addition of three new elementary, middle, and high school magnets promote diversity, socio-economic integration, and create a pathway from kindergarten through college where innovation, challenge, and creativity combine to deliver boundless opportunities for every child.

A new and groundbreaking mental health policy increases awareness of mental health issues impacting students, alerts staff to early warning signs and symptoms, and guides training, planning, and response. Teachers and administrators have been trained in the Trauma-Informed Care approach that supports struggling students.

Our work is guided by a mindset focused on continuous improvement in academics and operations, collective impact through an organized array of social-emotional support programs, increasing socio-economic integration, and planning and budgeting for long-term sustainability.

## Paramount Unified School District

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

### A College-Going Culture



**Dr. Ruth Pérez**  
Superintendent

It is an exciting time in the Paramount Unified School District as we continue to inspire our students through exceptional programs and instruction from our committed educators. Paramount Unified School District serves over 15,000 students.

Recently, the College Board awarded and named our district to the 2018 Advanced Placement District Honor Roll for boosting access to AP courses to more students while maintaining or improving AP exam passing rates. In August, 2018 we are opening a new high school. Odyssey STEM Academy will provide students with a unique and rigorous STEM curriculum that will lead to opportunities in the engineering field.

Additionally, the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform has designated all middle schools in PUSD as Schools to Watch. This award recognizes high student achievement while improving campus relations between students and teachers and reducing suspensions.

We continue to cultivate a college-going culture by offering free PSATs and SATs during the school day to high school students and eighth-graders as we prepare them for future success.

Our instructional focus includes teaching the California State Standards, AVID in elementary through high school, PLC Collaboration, Response to Intervention, and Safe and Civil Schools, with support from Academic Coaches at all schools as well as K-12 Counselors, all of which is coordinated in support of preparing our students for College and Careers.

**New Heights**, our Strategic Plan can be accessed at: [www.tinyurl.com/PUSDplan](http://www.tinyurl.com/PUSDplan)

**An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.**

**– Benjamin Franklin**

## Pomona Unified School District

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

### Creating 21st Century Learning



**Richard L. Martinez**  
Superintendent

Pomona's outstanding schools and educators are creating 21st Century learning.

As part of Sprint's 1 Million Project, students have free online service and state-of-the-art technology throughout their high school education. Through Pomona's National Academy Foundation schools, students can work in medical clinics based at the award-winning Palomares Academy and can join Western University's Health Career Ladder program which mentors students into medical careers. Our students study Engineering at Fremont Academy, film and computer science at Village Academy, and high finance at Garey's new Academy of International

Business, where students gain real-world experience by interning with local and Fortune 500 corporations.

In Pomona, our elementary students study computer coding and robotics, excelling in regional competitions at Cal Poly. Students at Garey High are working with MIT to develop an early-detection device to help neuropathy patients avoid amputation. This summer, students will research at the Keck Graduate Institute on the groundbreaking interface of genomics, computing and biology.

Pomona has won its third *Golden Bell* award, its second *District of Distinction Award* for its after-school program, the *Digital Citizenship Award* for excellence in technology, and the *Summer Matters Award* for summer learning. Pomona's high schools are listed among *2017's Best High Schools in the Nation* by *U.S. News & World Report*, and our schools have been named among the top 50 schools in the world by *Imagine Nation*.

As a District, Pomona is providing the best in student programs, transforming schools to create quality environments, improving school climate, and student achievement.

## Rosemead School District

3907 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/312-2900 • www.rosemead.k12.ca.us

### Preparing Future Global Leaders



**Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez**  
Superintendent

In 2017 the Rosemead School District schools received the prestigious recognition of being ranked as one of the top 4 school districts in the San Gabriel Valley. Franklin Covey also named both Encinita and Shuey Schools as a 2017 Leader in Me Lighthouse School of Academic Distinction.

The Rosemead School District has adopted the 7-Habits® Leader in Me® (LIM) 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. Along with outstanding academic state test scores, our students are part of nationally recognized leadership and character development schools.

Dr. Steven R. Covey's principle-based leadership skills are well known by adults and the business community. During the past 8 years, our Leader in Me program has been developed and integrated into our school's core curriculum. Our parents are very happy with the results they see in their children and we invite the public to tour our schools.

The 7-Habits of Highly Effective People, our Leader in Me® 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

Our Lighthouse Leadership teams invite you to see how the 7-Habits® and 21st century skills are being implemented in all classrooms.

For more information, please visit us at [www.rosemead.k12.ca.us](http://www.rosemead.k12.ca.us).

## Redondo Beach Unified School District

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

### Transformative District



**Dr. Steven E. Keller**  
Superintendent

The state-of-the-art RBUSD 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 truly transformative district serves approximately 10,000 K-12 students and despite declining enrollment trends throughout California, RBUSD continues to grow as a result of the synergy created between community and schools. We attribute the enrollment increase to: 1) great teaching and student engagement; and 2) the passages of a \$145 million construction bond in 2008 and a solar and technology bond in 2012 aimed at providing modern instructional tools for each RBUSD student and staff member, while concurrently relieving the district's general fund. The support of the Redondo Beach community have made RBUSD the finest school district in the South Bay!

Continued forward progress has been the ongoing focal point for the Board of Education, the administration, and the staff. Establishing data-driven educational programs, examining utilization of resources, and enhancing community and city relationships have secured a stronger commitment to better serve the total needs of all our students in our fine schools. RBUSD has also created community-focused health programs and movements. Too, our new and greatly modernized facilities are likely to continue this partnership into our city and wider community. The whole child's needs—socially, academically, emotionally, and physically—are the centerpiece for RBUSD.

Redondo Beach USD is just that, unified. Students, parents, and staff model schooling and learning that is collaborative, rigorous, and transformational—this is what makes RBUSD great! We are proud of our excellent Parent Teacher Association and Education Foundation; these groups assist the district with providing a sound educational and enrichment programs. 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 Reaching for Greatness.

## Rowland Unified School District

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

### Innovative Learning for All



**Dr. Julie Mitchell**  
Superintendent

It is an exciting time in the Rowland Unified School District. As Superintendent, I am proud of our commitment to provide innovative learning for all, which includes our students, staff, parents and community. We continue to expand technology resources to both students and families, and have established instructional support teams to guide engaging, rigorous and relevant instruction in our classrooms. We are proud of our Music for All program, where EVERY elementary student in grades 1-6 receives music classes each week during the school day. New this year is historic partnerships with Azusa Pacific University and the University of La Verne that guarantees college admission and a minimum of \$10,000 per year in scholarships for RUSD students.

We are proud of our seven elementary schools that were named 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools and our 2017 California Gold Ribbon Schools: John A. Rowland High School and Alvarado Intermediate School.

Additional signature programs include:

- International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools
- Spanish and Mandarin Dual Immersion Programs starting in Kindergarten
- National No Excuses University College Culture and AVID Schools
- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) across the District
- Advanced Placement, Honors and GATE classes, athletics, music, enrichment opportunities and support services for students to succeed.

Our graduates attend the nation's leading universities and last year earned more than \$3 million in scholarships and grants. Thanks to the support of our community, bond funds have provided state-of-the-art science labs, new classrooms and buildings, and the technology infrastructure needed for our students to perform at the highest levels.

## San Gabriel Unified School District

408 Junipero Serra Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776 • 626/451-5400 • www.sgusd.k12.ca.us

### 150 Years of Excellence



**Dr. John Pappalardo**  
Superintendent

San Gabriel Unified School District celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2018. To mark this historic occasion, each of our award-winning schools will honor our tradition of continuing academic excellence by providing robust learning opportunities for all students:

Gabrielino High School, a 2017 California Gold Ribbon school, offers a nationally acclaimed speech and debate program, 24 visual and performing arts courses, 19 Advanced Placement courses and a growing technical education program.

Del Mar High School was named a 2018 Model Continuation High School for its personalized approach to instruction, peer helping and youth outreach program, and its California History Day team.

Jefferson Middle School boosts student engagement through its campus clubs and activities, encourages peer support and college readiness through Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), and fosters innovative thinking through project-based learning.

Our five elementary schools are preparing students for a lifetime of academic and personal success through programs and offerings that include:

- Comprehensive STEM program with STEM lab, coding and robotics lessons
- Spanish dual-language immersion program
- After-school Mandarin language classes
- Award-winning Music Immersion Experience program
- Junior Forensic League speech and debate team
- Design-based learning instruction

Our teachers, students and staff continue to propel San Gabriel Unified into the future and to new levels of achievement, and we are committed to ensuring another 150 years of outstanding education.

## San Marino Unified School District

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

### Leading with Experience



**Dr. Alex Cherniss**  
Superintendent

Dr. Cherniss joined the San Marino Unified School District in July 2014 following his position as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). Dr. Cherniss has led the San Marino Unified School District to the highest performance in the State on the annual CAASPP testing. Dr. Cherniss has also recently led to the expansion of K-12 Computer Science Curriculum, a Blended Learning program, a STEM Initiative, a Student Wellenss Center, a District Mobile App, and new Mathematics and English Language Arts adoptions.

As CFO at LACOE, Dr. Cherniss certified the budgets of all 80 school districts in Los Angeles County, which included over \$13 billion in fiscal oversight. He routinely instructed superintendents and school business officials throughout the county on the new state funding and accountability laws and procedures, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Additionally, Dr. Cherniss managed the office's internal operations of approximately \$650 million, which included the award-winning specialized high school, Los Angeles County High School of the Arts (LACHSA), as well as over 100 alternative education schools and programs throughout the county. Dr. Cherniss also serves as a professor in the doctoral program at USC's Rossier School of Education, where he teaches EDUC 717: Education as an Economic Entity to Ed.D students.

Dr. Cherniss is also an adjunct professor on campus at USC's Rossier School of Education, where he teaches school finance. His other professional accomplishments include having been named the American Association of School Administrators Education Scholar, the USC Dean's Superintendents Advisory Group Scholar, and the Beverly Hills Unified School District Administrator of the Year.

## Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

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

### Establishing a Social Justice Framework



**Dr. Ben Drati**  
Superintendent

As part of our collective efforts to achieve Excellence through Equity, we have committed to establishing and embedding cross-cultural and socio-emotional learning as a cornerstone of our students' educational experience.

The following is our common message that will cross over all of our work: All students graduate ready for college and careers from schools that are safe, socially responsive and academically rigorous. This is accomplished through a self-reflective and shared system of accountability that consistently uses culturally relevant best practices to maximize equitable student outcomes.

The development of the social justice framework and action plan demonstrate our long-term commitment to implementing a comprehensive approach to fulfill our promises to students and families.

This framework represents the guiding principles that ground our collective action to support and build the internal capacity to embed the social justice standards in the fabric of our work.

Strategies and supports include the alignment of social justice standards to the California State Standards and the new generation science standards; provides support for teachers to promote implementation of social justice standards across content areas and provides professional development for all teachers on critical practices for creating a learning environment where academic and socio-emotional goals are accomplished in tandem.

Our action plan delineates our commitment to the development of our capacity to deliver educational experiences that center on supporting our students in acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes to thrive in a diverse and democratic society.

## Saugus Union School District

24930 Avenue Stanford, Santa Clarita, CA 91355 • 661/294-5300 • www.saugusd.org

### More than A Century of Excellence



**Dr. Joan Lucid**  
Superintendent

Saugus Union School District is proud of more than a century of excellence in elementary education. Our Governing Board, administrators, teachers and support staffs are dedicated to academic and personal success for every student.

We celebrate academic excellence with fourteen of our fifteen schools designated as California Gold Ribbon Schools, as well as thirty-four California Distinguished Schools awards, five as National Blue Ribbon Schools and three as a Title 1 Achieving Schools. Our teachers and staffs embrace 21st Century learning with Communication, Creativity, Collaboration and Critical Thinking as part of daily routines.

Our District Goals articulate our commitment to excellence:

**Increase Student Achievement:** State testing scores are 63% in ELA and 41% in Mathematics achieving Met or Exceeded Standard; Systematic ELD strategies with 30 minutes of daily instruction resulting in reclassified students achieving Met or Exceeded Standard of 78% in ELA and 61% in Mathematics; High quality professional development that increases expertise and skills the Arts.

**Increase Meaningful and Purposeful Student Engagement:** Junior Toastmasters, Math Field Day and Festival of the Arts showcase student learning, talents and abilities; Communication through Facebook, online newsletters, email and traditional meetings and conferences.

**Provide Appropriate Basic Conditions of Learning:** Voter approved Measure EE, \$148 million dollar bond that addresses the district's facilities needs in building 21st century classrooms; Installation of state of art interactive flat panels in all classrooms and professional development to ensure sustainability.

Saugus Union School District, in partnership with the home and community, is committed to excellence in elementary education. Our Governing Board encourages our efforts, supports our endeavors and takes great pride in our accomplishments.

## South Pasadena Unified School District

1020 El Centro Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030 • 626/441-5800 • [www.spusd.net](http://www.spusd.net)

### Challenging Academic Programs



**Dr. Geoff Yantz**  
Superintendent

Established in 1886, the South Pasadena Unified School District serves approximately 4,800 students within five schools including three elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. Nestled in the West San Gabriel Valley, SPUSD has earned a reputation for providing high quality public education, attracting families who value challenging academic programs and outstanding teachers. Consistently recognized for superior performance, SPUSD students earn honors at the local, state and national level. The District draws vital support from parents and community members through the South Pasadena Educational Foundation, local PTAs and booster clubs. Recently, community members overwhelmingly approved a \$98 million bond measure ensuring that South Pasadena schools will be modernized and improved matching the high-caliber academic programs and excellent instruction for which we are well-known.

Continually evolving to prepare for the future, SPUSD is focusing on four strategic goals as outlined by the School Board and administration. These goals embody urgent and important ideas and guide planning and decision making for the District and include:

- Enabling greater achievement for all students
- Offering state-of-the-art curriculum and instruction
- Achieving financial strength and sustainability
- Providing facilities that support educational excellence

Our students reach their individual potential by developing intellectual abilities, emotional maturity, unique talents, love of learning and responsibility for their own learning. They confidently participate in the complex, global environment. Through unending community support and strong leadership, the future looks bright for the children of South Pasadena.

## Sulphur Springs School District

27000 Weyerhaeuser Way, Canyon Country, CA 91351 • 661/252-5131 • [www.sssd.k12.ca.us](http://www.sssd.k12.ca.us)

### Educating for Excellence!



**Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi**  
Superintendent

The Sulphur Springs Union School District Board of Trustees and staff are focused on making sure that the 5,400 students are educated in classrooms that promote choice, creativity, and innovation on a daily basis. The District is located in an area known as Canyon Country, within the Santa Clarita Valley.

The nine award-winning schools in the District are filled with dedicated staff members that are committed to working in collaboration with each other to ensure that there is a strategic focus on assisting students to master the California state standards, and provide enrichment opportunities throughout the day to accelerate student learning. The Board of Trustees

and staff are making sure that the educational program that is offered to every student is targeting the whole child.

The District is dedicated to partnering with its families, and understands the importance of family engagement to further enhance learning for its students. The District and its families are committed to offering students opportunities to learn in dynamic, technology-rich environments that further excel the academic program to increase student excellence. The Sulphur Springs Union School District sets the foundation for all of its students to achieve their full potential to be successful in elementary, junior, and high schools, and at the university.

**Be a student as long as you still have something to learn,  
and this will mean all your life. —Henry L. Doherty**

## South Whittier School District

11200 Telechron Avenue, Whittier, CA 90605 • 562/944-6231 • [www.swhittier.k12.ca.us](http://www.swhittier.k12.ca.us)

### Success for All Students



**Dr. Gary Gonzales**  
Superintendent

South Whittier School District (SWSD) is comprised of 6 Elementary Schools and a Middle School located in the unincorporated area of the city of Whittier and proud to serve 2700 plus students. The District's motto is "*Success for Every Student*" and is evident through the focused actions of our Board of Education, the commitment from our dedicated classified and certificated staff members and engaged parents. Collaboratively, we will ensure that every child has access to a rigorous and appropriate education so that they are prepared to compete in a global society. SWSD is committed to providing "every student" with a world-class education where they will develop skills and characteristics that prepare them to transition into high school, college and eventually the workforce. Students are supported in an educational environment where they are engaged in conversation, projects, performances and presentations that utilize critical thinking skills. In addition to nurturing academics, the District prides itself with contributing to the development of our future civic leaders and productive members of society.

As Superintendent, I am honored to serve this District and together, with Board members, teachers, classified and administration, we shall give students & families our best. Every employee has a hand in making the District the best it can be and the power to positively influence students by fostering healthy relationships, supporting students in their challenges, and providing them access to a robust and broad curriculum. We look forward to working with the entire SWSD community in providing the optimal educational environment for our students.

## Temple City Unified School District

9700 Las Tunas Drive, Temple City, CA 91780 • 626/548-5000 • [www.tcusd.net](http://www.tcusd.net)

### Anything is Possible



**Kathryn E. Perini**  
Superintendent

The Temple City Unified School District proudly serves the educational needs of nearly 6,000 students in Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition to our shared emphasis on fostering a rigorous and relevant academic environment, each of our seven schools reaffirms the importance of partnerships with our families and the broader community. We are fortunate to have a community willing to support our schools and with the passage of a recent bond, we are upgrading many of our sites in an effort to expand our programs and offer our scholars state-of-the-art facilities.

As a former student, teacher, counselor and now administrator in the award-winning Temple City Unified School District, I possess a unique perspective into what is possible when students participate in an environment in which they are taught that anything is possible.

College and career orientations, personal development and character education remain as the cornerstones for our collective work in affording our students the skills necessary to be confident competitors in the 21st century global marketplace. We continue to formulate learning designs enabling our students to value the process of education as they explore, discover and develop competencies in the expression of their views and opinions within a collaborative context. STEM/STEAM offerings for all students including computer science immersion beginning in Kindergarten, are emphasized as we prepare our students for an unprecedented future.

In TCUSD, we are excited about the current educational transformation that will require all of us to take on new and expanding roles as we explore the potentials of teaching and learning while creating a technology-infused culture.

## Torrance Unified School District

2335 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/972-6500 • [www.tusd.org](http://www.tusd.org)

### Community Matters



**Dr. George Mannon**  
Superintendent

As the largest school district in the South Bay, TUSD is all about community, with a school in every neighborhood. Often when I meet parents I am happy to learn that our students are part of families whose parents, and sometimes grandparents, were also part of the TUSD family. Our parents are Torrance teachers, police officers, fire men and women, nurses, doctors, engineers, local entrepreneurs and business owners. These same parents and grandparents find time to volunteer, organize events, and plan fundraisers to benefit our schools.

Our schools thrive because our parents and community members work together collaboratively and comprehensively to positively impact students. Partners like our PTAs and the Torrance Education Foundation support our goals of preparing students for college, career, by offering additional opportunities and enrichment.

Our PTAs are an invaluable resource. They offer student scholarships, they host and organize the District College Fair, offer parenting courses, which provide additional supports for our more vulnerable students and their families.

The Torrance Education Foundation has been a District partner in enhancing our science program. The Foundation provides teachers grants to fund educational projects in their classrooms, such as “Hour of Code,” and funds enrichment clubs such as robotics clubs, CyberPatriots, Math Counts, and the Science Olympiad. TEF is also committed to funding the essential tools and supplies needed for the new elementary science labs.

In Torrance, community matters. Everyone works together with the common goal to provide a robust 21st-century education to all our students. We are thankful to our parents and community organizations for consistently adding value to the educational experiences of our students.

## Walnut Valley Unified School District

880 South Lemon Avenue, Walnut, CA 91789 • 909/595-1261 • [www.wvusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.wvusd.k12.ca.us)

### Inspiring students to Be Their Best



**Dr. Robert P. Taylor**  
Superintendent

Walnut Valley Unified School District is a premier school district committed to “KIDS FIRST - Every Student, Every Day.” Our wonderful teachers and staff are dedicated in preparing all students to thrive in a rapidly changing, competitive, global economy by teaching them 21st century skills through quality programs that include STEAM - science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

Our hard-working WVUSD schools, in the midst of significant changes by state and federal oversight to the curriculum, instruction, and assessment programs, continue to experience high gains in academic achievement. We recently earned the highest test scores of any school district with a minimum of 12,000 students in all of L.A. County.

This past year, our students, staff, and schools were distinguished with top honors including two California Gold Ribbon Awards, CSBA Golden Bell, Schools to Watch, NAMM Best Community for Music Education, Presidential Scholars, CIF state champions, and more.

WVUSD earned an A+ grade, ranking the #14 in California in the Niche 2017 Best Schools report.

For the 8th consecutive year, Diamond Bar and Walnut made the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of 2017 Best High Schools.

Additionally, WVUSD's high performing schools were ranked #1 in Southern California in the Best School District for Your Buck report.

We appreciate the ongoing support from our Walnut Valley community with volunteers donating time and resources to enrich the educational experience of our students.

We strive to develop first-rate learning facilities. Our students, schools, and community will benefit from nearly \$153 million in local funding made possible by voter approval of Bond Measure WV in November 2016.

## Valle Lindo School District

1431 N. Central Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733 • 626/580-0610 • [www.vallelindo.k12.ca.us](http://www.vallelindo.k12.ca.us)

### An Enchanting Place



**Dr. Mary Louise Labrucherie**  
Superintendent

Come visit the Valle Lindo School District, an enchanting place where Shively Saints and Temple Tigers thrive in the exciting world of learning!

The Valle Lindo School District began in 1863 and has maintained its proud, rich and long history. Today, the old school bell, brought around the Horn in 1878, rings early in the morning summoning the students to award-winning schools. The schools have earned multiple Title I awards and California Distinguished School Awards. In addition, they have earned four Golden Bell Awards from the California School Boards Association (CSBA). Both Dean L. Shively Middle School and New Temple School

are California Gold Ribbon Schools. Out of 10,000 schools, New Temple Elementary School is one of 46 schools recognized by the Flippen Group as a model school for the Capturing Kids' Hearts program. Dean L. Shively Middle School was recently recognized as a highly certified school site and was most recently nominated to receive school-wide Site of Distinction recognition, an honor awarded to the top 2% of schools for their Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program.

The pristine schools provide all students with state-of-the-art technology. Students are enthusiastically engaged in both STEM and performing arts activities that have earned CSBA Golden Bell Awards. Student-made botanical gardens reinforce reverence for the environment, while an outstanding school band and dance program entertain and honor the senior citizens at their luncheons. The Mayor has proclaimed the Valle Lindo School District as the gem of the City.

When you observe the students of the Valle Lindo School District engaged in their wonderful world of learning—you won't want to leave!

## Westside Union School District

41914 N. 50th Street West, Quartz Hill, CA 93536 • 661/722-0716 • [www.westside.k12.ca.us](http://www.westside.k12.ca.us)

### Pointing the Way, Providing the Path



**Regina L. Rossall**  
Superintendent

As we continue to help our students achieve success as 21st Century learners, we have upgraded their access to technology by expanding our available hardware and software as well as major revisions to our connectivity. Our newest schools have become the model for the remaining schools in the district, some that were built in the 50's, as to how staff and students can utilize technology in their daily instruction as well as learning about the ready access they now have to endless information. Students participate in many web-based programs for all subjects, use various apps and the District has concentrated its effort with students through the use of programs such as Fast For Word, Project Lead the Way and several other programs in science and math in particular.

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. We have two STEM schools of choice, one K-6 and the other 7-8--both have been operational for 2 years, we've added a 6th grade Honors Academy, too. In the coming year we will be adding a STEAM school of choice in our newly remodeled Cottonwood School. It will feature the STEM activities of other sites, but will also have an emphasis on the arts.

We are fortunate to continue receiving community support for extracurricular and academic programs from 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, leadership camps, 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.

## West Covina Unified School District

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

### Incredible Opportunities



**Dr. Charles D. Hinman**  
Superintendent

As the 2017-2018 school year comes to an end, I look forward to the incredible opportunities we will offer next year!

We will open the Mt. SAC Early College Academy at West Covina as a partnership with Mount San Antonio College. The Academy's innovative design allows our scholars to earn a high school diploma and up to 20-30 college credits. This program is free and helps families save thousands of dollars on tuition, books and parking fees.

Cameron and Orangewood elementary schools are authorized as International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programmes, complementing our IB Diploma Programme at Edgewood High School.

We are in the process of authorization for the Middle Years Programme at Edgewood Middle School, which would establish our district's K-12 IB Programme continuum.

Another opportunity is our well received Dual Immersion Program happening at Monte Vista and Orangewood elementary schools. Scholars learn Spanish as a world language beginning in transitional kindergarten through third grade, ultimately expanding to the sixth grade.

With the passage of Bond Measure ES last year, we have seen tremendous modernizations already. All elementary school students are enjoying their newly renovated playgrounds, and Edgewood High School athletes are still beaming with excitement about their new track and field stadium.

This summer, the district will continue to upgrade Edgewood's aquatic center and begin construction on the events center including new video production and game design classrooms. Additionally, we will complete the enhancements of West Covina High School's football stadium and start constructing on new robotics and architectural design classrooms.

I would like to commend our Board for their vision and ongoing commitment to expand and enhance our innovative programs, building a strong foundation for all of our West Covina scholars.

## Whittier Union High School District

9401 S. Painter Avenue, Whittier, CA 90605 • 562/698-8121 • www.wuhd.org

### Building a Culture of Student Success



**Martin Plourde**  
Superintendent

Built on a culture of collaboration, inclusiveness and the belief that demographics do not determine destiny, the Whittier Union High School District provides students a widespread system of support to ensure each is given every opportunity to succeed and flourish in a 21st century world.

Whittier Union has earned a reputation for attaining and sustaining substantial academic progress among a diverse student population of 12,000 at five award-winning comprehensive high schools, a model continuation school, an independent study school and a transition program, as well 7,000 Adult School students.

Nearly 97 percent of students are graduating in four years; for those who need additional support in our alternative schools, another 3 percent are graduating in five years, bringing Whittier Union's graduation rate to 99 percent. Students in grades 10-12 have maintained the highest on-target for graduation rates in District history, with nearly 97 percent of seniors on track to graduate and more than 90 percent of graduates enrolling in college.

This success has been nearly 20 years in the making, starting with the District's pioneering Whatever It Takes initiative, which prepares students for a future that will be determined not by a student's ethnicity or family income, but by their excelling academically in the most rigorous course of study provided by deeply committed and highly qualified teachers.

The District's continued academic achievement is directly related to the efforts of its exemplary Board of Trustees, teachers and staff to ensure equity, access and excellence for all students.

## Whittier City School District

7211 S. Whittier Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602 • 562/789-3075 • www.whittiercity.net

### Students First, Every Decision, Every Day



**Dr. Ron Carruth**  
Superintendent

The Whittier City School District is extremely proud of our schools and programs. Our motto, "Students First, Every Decision, Every Day" exemplifies our commitment to providing students with opportunities to excel in nurturing, dynamic learning environments. Students in Whittier City are engaged in the development of critical thinking and the application of 21st century skills. Through intentional planning, our curriculum promotes student collaboration, greater levels of perseverance, and problem solving. Even more impressive is our commitment to the explicit teaching of writing in every classroom and content area. Last year, the Whittier City School District successfully

implemented a 1:1 iPad program for all students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Technology is meaningfully integrated into the instructional program and students use iPads to research, collaborate, and communicate. Our classrooms are innovative learning environments that prepare students to be competitive in college, career, and a global economy. The Whittier City School District offers several different themed academies to support developing interests and talents in students: Mill School Technology Academy, an Apple Distinguished School, Daniel Phelan Language Academy, a 2017 CAFE Seal of Excellence Spanish dual language immersion school, Hoover Fine Arts Academy, Sorensen Science Academy, Lydia Jackson College Preparatory Academy, an AVID Showcase school, and Edwards STEM Academy. Furthermore, our outstanding academic programs have yielded impressive achievement gains and noteworthy distinctions. Andrews School was named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School, four Whittier City School District schools were named 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools: Andrews School, Mill School and Technology Academy, Phelan Language Academy, and Sorensen Science Academy. The Whittier City School District is a great place for the students and families of Whittier!

## William S. Hart Union High School District

21380 Centre Pointe Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350 • 661/259-0033 • www.hartdistrict.org

### College and Career Readiness



**Vicki Engbrecht**  
Superintendent

The William S. Hart Union High School District, which serves students in grades 7-12, is located in the Santa Clarita Valley, in northern Los Angeles County. Known for its strong focus on college and career readiness, the Hart District sends more than 90% of its graduates on to four-year colleges or universities, community colleges, or career technical programs.

Academically, the District consistently ranks in the top tier of districts of its size in California. Outstanding extra-curricular programs, including athletics and performing arts, are available on all campuses, and are regionally, state, and nationally recognized for their excellence.

A variety of educational options are provided. Nearly 23,000 students are enrolled in the six comprehensive high schools, six junior high schools, a California Model Continuation school, a "Middle College" high school, an independent study school, a home school support program, an adult school, and a therapeutic school. Our newest comprehensive high school, located in the Castaic community, is set to open in fall 2019.

The Hart District has strong partnerships with the local community college and the City of Santa Clarita. Academy of the Canyons, a partnership between College of the Canyons and the District, allows high school students to take college courses while completing high school graduation requirements. In addition, students enrolled on our comprehensive high school campuses take more than 1000 college courses each year through concurrent enrollment at the College. Through the College and Career Readiness Program, students attending any of the District's schools can begin their career paths as early as junior high. The Hart District has made a commitment to prepare students for post-secondary life with strong collegiate, civic, and business partnerships.

## Wilsona School District

18050 E. Avenue O, Palmdale, CA 93591 • 661/264-111 • www.wilsonasd.net

# Student Success Our Goal



**Teresa A. Grey**  
Superintendent

The Wilsona School District serves the rural, high desert community of Lake Los Angeles. The Wilsona School District is an organization which views itself as a family. Tucked in the northeast corner of the unincorporated Los Angeles County, Wilsona provides welcoming campuses and devoted staff to its 1302 plus students in preschool through eighth grade. The District covers approximately 100 square miles. 90% of the area's population is located within 20 square miles. Wilsona has the highest poverty rate in LA County.

Student achievement and high standards are the focus of our schools. Working collaboratively with student success as a goal, the staff has developed strong bonds focused on teaching and learning. They are constant professionals who actively participate in professional development, engage in self reflection and collaboration. Despite the challenges our students face and the distance staff drives to work in Wilsona, there is a great sense of unity and support for our efforts to educate students. We welcome parents to work with us to educate their children. We love our students and want to provide the best educational opportunities for them. Wilsona may be small but we are mighty in our efforts to educate our students.

I am proud to be the Superintendent of this wonderful District. I feel privileged to work with outstanding teachers, support staff, families, and the Board of Trustees. Each person brings special qualities to the District that supports students in becoming lifelong learners. Our school community wants all children to excel and fulfill their dreams.

## Wiseburn Unified School District

201 N. Douglas Street., El Segundo, CA 92045 • 310/725-2101 • www.wiseburn.k12.ca.us

# Celebrating 122 Years of Innovation



**Dr. Tom Johnstone**  
Superintendent

After 119 years as a K-8 district, Wiseburn realized a long-term dream on July 1, 2014 to become the K-12 Wiseburn Unified School District! As a K-12 district, Wiseburn shares a very unique and innovative school district/charter partnership that takes advantage of the very best educational opportunities offered by both methods. With approximately 4,500 students and 9 schools, Wiseburn continues to enjoy the benefits of being one of the "small" districts in Los Angeles County. Diversity with balance is one of Wiseburn's greatest assets.

In August 2009, Wiseburn chartered two independent high school charters, Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design, to offer Wiseburn families a high school option for the first time in our district's history. The Da Vinci Schools excel academically using project-based learning and strong support from local aerospace corporations. In August 2011, Da Vinci Schools launched the K-8 Innovation Academy, which provides a two-day per week program and an independent study program that targets the home school student population. In 2013, Da Vinci launched a third high school program, Da Vinci Communications with a Liberal Arts and Computer Science focus. In August 2017, Wiseburn and Da Vinci Schools launched the RISE High School Program as part of a \$10 million XQ Super Schools Project for the redesigning of high school education in the United States. RISE High focuses specifically on homeless and foster children.

Capitalizing on the Wiseburn community's approval of an \$87 million school construction bond in November 2010, the district purchased a 13.7 acre site in El Segundo in September 2012. In November 2014, the State Allocation Board approved \$52.7 in charter school state matching funds that have enabled us to complete the \$160 million Wiseburn High School construction project in November 2017. Phase II of the Wiseburn High School Project will be completed in the summer of 2018 and will include a World Class aquatics facility, a gym and athletic fields.

# Novelist 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 LA County in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2018  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

COMPUTER	READERS	BING
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IPAD	IDEAS	KEYBOARD
SPELLCHECK	PEN	TELEPHONE
PRINTER	BROWSER	WIFI
PUBLISHER	GOOGLE	IMAGINATION
NOTEPAD	INTERNET	



## The Year in Review: 1918

By D.H. Coop

During the Great War, day-to day life continued in America. In baseball, the Chicago Cubs beat the Philadelphia Phillies 2 to 1 in a 21-inning game. The Cubs then went on to win the pennant faster than any team in baseball—only to later lose the World Series to the Boston Red Sox. In that same season, the Georgia Peach, Ty Cobb, pitched two innings against the Browns, and Babe Ruth scored homeruns in three consecutive games, tying the major-league record. Walter Johnson pitched 18 innings in one game, and the White Sox hired Kid Gleason as their new manager.

The fourth Rose Bowl featured the U.S. Marines defeating Army 19 to 7 (though Army fared much better in 2017!). Many of the players were later shipped overseas to fight the Germans. The boxing ring saw Jack Dempsey “KO” Carl Morris in 14 seconds. And, not to be outdone by the men, Margaret Owen set a world record by typing 170 words in just one minute.

Robert Ripley began his series “Believe it or Not,” and the Great Houdini made an elephant disappear. Charlie Chaplin, then 29, married film star Mildred Harris, who was just 16. In that same year, John J. Hoover changed his name to J. Edgar Hoover. It was also the year that the Great War ended and a pandemic flu spread around the world.

Advertisements in local newspapers featured an array of car companies: Stanley, Comet, Tulsa, Revere, Douglas, Ford, Hanson, Yale and Dodge Brothers, to name a few. This burgeoning American industry sent 110,911 vehicles to Europe for the war effort. The wristwatch began to replace the pocket watch, and men wore garters to hold up their socks. And Royal Vinolia vanishing cream disappeared off of market shelves thanks to its advertisement featuring a female factory worker and the slogan “Beauty on Duty Has a Duty to Beauty.”

Though 100 years have passed since these historic events shaped our country, our lives have not changed that much. Though we enjoy the benefits of many more comforts and much more technology, we still love our sports and our cars, we still enjoy a good advertising campaign, and we are still grateful to those who protect and defend our country so sacrificially by serving in the military. This year, let’s celebrate our country’s rich heritage and its promise for the future.

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

## School News

Education+Communication=A Better Nation



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## Note-ables

### Songs of Peace & Love



Kate Karp

Vocal group Ladysmith Black Mambazo had long been cultural-music heroes in their native South Africa when musician Paul Simon made them world famous by weaving their quiet yet powerful harmonies into his unforgettable *Graceland* album and the subsequent tour. Today, parents, grandparents and teachers can pass the group forward to younger generations in *Songs of Peace and Love*.



Ladysmith’s latest children’s collection, a 2017 Grammy nominee, carves a restful, thoughtful space into a world that has been too full of noise and confusion for both children and adults. Both lyrics and vocals are sung in a spirit of humanity and harmony and in tribute to late South African president Nelson Mandela.

“We know firsthand how hard it is to raise children in a world of conflict, in a world where children need positive role models and positive words,” group member Albert Mazibuko said. “We hope our songs can be an important part of the lessons of peace and love that all parents want to impart to their children.”

“Everything’s So Stupid” lays out the honest frustration in parent-child communication—from both sides. “Different Colors Mean Nothing to Me” tells of how different races and languages are not things to be overcome but part of the world’s beauty. And there’s a Zulu version of “Old MacDonald.”

The overall message of Ladysmith is that talking to one another can pave the way for communication and, hopefully, peace. Let these songs move you along—they’ll put diamonds on the souls.

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

## Ask Dr. Shari

### Good for the Mind & Great for the 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 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.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com), [www.doctorshari.com](http://www.doctorshari.com), twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIn: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Wiseburn High School, Wiseburn Unified School District



## Raising the bar for what's possible

Ranked by *ENR California* as the 3rd largest K-12 builder, we have been entrusted to build innovative, 21st Century spaces throughout Los Angeles for the past 20 years. Recently, we helped transform a building once used by aerospace engineers into one of the most innovative school campuses ever envisioned for 21st Century teaching and learning—Wiseburn High School.

*"Balfour Beatty has been an outstanding partner focused on open communication and teamwork, quality construction, zero harm, zero waste, sustainability, client advocacy, community relations, and lean project delivery."*

—Matthew Wunder, Ed.D., CEO, Da Vinci Schools

Contact us today to learn more about how we can help you build the most advanced learning environments, and to request a free copy of our new book, *Humanizing the Education Machine*.

**Gil Fullen, Vice President, Education**  
gfullen@balfourbeattyus.com

**John Bernardy, Senior Vice President**  
jbernardy@balfourbeattyus.com

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