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Dear Parents and Community Members,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Orange Unified School District! This new school year brings with it some unique challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of our students, staff, and families are of the utmost importance, and we have worked throughout the summer to disinfect our sites and implement enhanced health and safety measures on our campuses. While we began the school year with 100% distance learning, we are ready to welcome students back onto campus as soon as public health guidelines allow. When schools reopen, on-campus learning will look much different than previous years, including fewer desks in classrooms, new campus signage, Plexiglas barriers, handwashing stations, and more.

Our 2020-2021 OUSD Re-imagining Schools/Health & Safety-Driven Reopening Plan, approved by the Board of Education on July 23, will allow us to pivot between 100% distance learning, blended (elementary only), and full-day on-campus instruction for the 2020-2021 school year, as public health guidelines permit and in accordance with all mandated public health and safety protocols. This dynamic plan aligns with The Orange Unified EDGE, which focuses on Excellence in academics and leadership, Dedicated and engaged communication, Genuine wellness and safety, and Efficient utilization of fiscal capital. The Re-imagining Schools Plan will continue to be updated based on the most current guidance from public health officials and state agencies.

On Sunday, August 23, Orange County was removed from the California COVID-19 watch list as public health officials successfully reported three consecutive days of data below all of the state’s monitoring thresholds. The state mandates a county must be off the watch list for 14 days before all schools can reopen for on-campus instruction without getting a waiver. Provided Orange County’s daily COVID-19 numbers remain below state-set thresholds for 14 consecutive days, Orange Unified School District would be allowed to move to Phase 2 of the 2020-2021 OUSD Re-imagining Schools/Health & Safety-Driven Reopening Plan, pending approval by the OUSD Board of Education.

The district will be evaluating the best date for students to return to on-campus learning once state guidelines allow. To ensure the safety of our students and staff, on-campus instruction will be phased in, starting with the elementary grades. Given the current data trends, it is possible that students could begin a phased-in return after Labor Day.

Orange County could be placed back on the watch list should it be flagged for exceeding any one of six different COVID-19 metrics for three consecutive days. These metrics are the case rate, the percentage of positive tests, the average number of tests a county can perform daily, changes in the number of hospitalized patients, and the percentage of ventilators and intensive care beds available. To track the number of days Orange County has been off the monitoring list, please visit the OC Health Care Agency website and click on the online dashboard.

Despite the stresses of the current situation, exciting things are underway throughout the District. Measure S construction is still in progress at each of our four comprehensive high schools, and we are excited to see our new Science Complexes come to fruition. This fall, we look forward to completing construction at Orange and El Modena High Schools.

Facilities district-wide are also being revitalized and updated, and the finishing touches are underway at the newly rebuilt Fred Kelly Stadium. Our high schools have updated track and field facilities, many of our elementary schools have new playground equipment, and The Little Theater at Orange High School is receiving a long-overdue renovation. Thanks to a generous donation from the Canyon High School Foundation, a complete overhaul of the Canyon High School gym will also be underway soon.

The success of each student is a collaborative effort between all stakeholders in the process of teaching and learning. Award-winning schools and academic achievement are direct results of the hard work and dedication of Orange Unified staff in partnership with our parents and the OUSD community. I encourage each of you to work with your child’s teachers and principal to help foster a positive educational experience. Together, we are reimagining our schools and are ready to open our campuses for student instruction as soon as we are permitted to do so, and in alignment with public health and safety guidelines.

Please stay up-to-date on important district communication by visiting www.orangeusd.org and following us on social media. The most current version of our Re-imagining Schools/Reopening Plan, as well as other relevant information and resources, are also available on our website.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we continue to navigate the new school year with the health and safety of our students and staff at the forefront of our efforts.

Warmest Regards,

Gunn Marie Hansen, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Welcome to a new school year. The only constant is change and that has been proven in the past few months. The whole world has dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic. Everyday when I see small children with masks I marvel at how their parents have helped them understand the reason. When graduates didn't have the privilege of walking across the stage to be presented with the diploma they earned, they seemed to understand. (Parents may have had a harder time understanding.) Some of the necessary changes may be permanent...more people working from home. One innovation was a blast from the past enjoying a drive-in movie on a rooftop parking lot. Along with other moviegoers, we got an education when we discovered newer cars without keys automatically turn off after 15-20 minutes. (Some of you may be old enough to remember listening to the movie through speakers on poles and not a car radio.) The bottomline is Americans adapt to change and innovate.

In the months ahead, we will continue to bring you updates from the classrooms. Thank you for continuing to include School News among your reading choices.

Our next issue is December 2nd.
Greetings from Parkside!

I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to serve as the Coordinator of Alternative Education. The 2020-2021 school year marks my 5th year as the site administrator here at the Parkside Education Center. I am very proud of all the hard work and accomplishments by our students, staff and families here.

Prior to my time at Parkside, I was an Assistant Principal at Villa Park High School for five years. While at VPHS I oversaw discipline, student records, guidance and curriculum. My time and Villa Park was amazing and I had the pleasure of working with some of the best administrators, teachers, students and parents around!

Prior to my time in OUSD I was a classroom teacher and coach in the Irvine Unified School District. I taught middle school history and PE for 2 years at Sierra Vista Middle School and then spent 4 years in the same capacity at Creekside Continuation High School.

I am extremely excited to serve the students and families of Parkside Education Center. If I can ever be of any assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact me.

Justin Stanfield
Coordinator
OUSD Alternative Education / ROP
Parkside Education Center: 250 S. Yorba St., Orange, CA 92869

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EDGE Virtual Academy (7-12)

www.orangeusd.org
Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore is proud to belong to Anaheim Hills Elementary School (AHES), as she starts her third school year as a Panther. This will be Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore’s 11th year in education and her 6th year in administration. Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore has had a diverse set of experiences and roles as an educator including a teacher, educational technology coach, Coordinator in the Orange Unified Office of K-12 Curriculum & Instruction, and her favorite role as Panther Principal.

Last school year, Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore continued to support AHES signature programs including school-wide morning fitness, robotics, the Kindness Garden, PALS, Green Team, and VAPA showcases. With the support of AHES PTA, Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore installed Smart TV displays in several primary classrooms. Additionally, she was able to expand the technology available to students by adding additional Chromebooks and iPads to the AHES campus.

This school year AHES will implement our new and improved Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program to assist all students schoolwide on their pathway to success. With the support of our district, Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore was able to expand the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program at AHES this school year for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students. With our AVID focus, we will ensure all students have the skills and opportunities to prepare them for limitless future possibilities including college and career readiness.

AHES is so fortunate to have dedicated educators that are committed to providing strong and exceptional educational experiences to meet the needs of all of our Panther students each and every day. Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore is so thankful for the outstanding Panther students, families, and staff that she gets to work with at AHES and is looking forward to an exciting and productive 2020-21 school year!

Dr. Misty Brunasso is honored to be the new principal at California Elementary school home of the iInspire Academy where Technology and Language Flourish! iInspire Academy is the premier public one-to-one Take Home iPad School for grades TK-5, and a Spanish Dual Immersion program. She looks forward to a year of collaborating and building partnerships with the students, teachers, and the community of California Elementary. Dr. Brunasso has dedicated her career to the Orange Unified School District where she has served as an educator for 20 years. She began her career as an elementary classroom teacher. Throughout her time in Orange Unified, Dr. Brunasso served as a Teacher on Special Assignment focusing on English Learners, an Instructional Specialist focusing on Dual Immersion and currently Principal at California Elementary.

Dr. Brunasso received a Bachelor’s degree, Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential, and Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Cal State University Fullerton. She also holds an Administrative Credential and Master’s Degree in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University. As a lifelong educator, Dr. Brunasso is passionate about fostering a positive school culture and climate where every child can be successful. Her highest priority is for students to be connected, treated with respect, and able to learn in a safe and engaging school environment. Her personal mission is to ensure students are excited to attend school each day, passionate about their learning, equipped to problem solve, and can influence and contribute positively to their community, on a global level as well.

As an Orange County native and OUSD alumni Dr. Brunasso shares her life with her husband Joe, and daschunds Riley and Lucy. She enjoys spending time with her family and traveling. It is with great enthusiasm that she leads California Elementary staff and community and is looking forward to an incredible school year.
Diane Lew is looking forward to her fifth year as the principal of Cambridge Elementary School. Prior to this position, Ms. Lew worked as one of Orange Unified School District’s Special Education Coordinators, as well as an Education Specialist. She also has experience as an elementary and middle school general education teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Ms. Lew holds a Bachelor’s degree in Physical Education from San Francisco State University and Master’s degree in Educational Administration from National University. Ms. Lew has a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, an Education Specialist Instructional Credential for Mild to Moderate Disabilities, and an Administrative Services Credential.

Ms. Lew believes in a collaborative and inclusive school environment in which talented and dedicated teachers deliver high-quality, data-informed instruction in a fun and safe environment. This approach encourages students to work together to take academic risks using communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity to solve real-world problems that will support them in reaching their full potential and becoming college and career ready.

Ms. Lew is honored to be part of the Cambridge Elementary School community. She enjoys partnering with staff, families, students, and the community to ensure that all student needs are met by maintaining a safe, structured, and inclusive environment that encourages students to develop a growth mindset, gives students the confidence needed to become creative problem-solvers, and promotes positive relationships and responsible behaviors.

Welcome to the 2020/2021 school year!

Craig Abercrombie is excited to start the 2020-21 school year at Canyon High School. He is entering his 23rd year as an educator and his 18th year in the Orange Unified School District (OUSD). After graduating from college, Craig began his teaching career in Arizona. He joined OUSD as an English teacher and the head boys’ basketball coach at Orange High School in 2003. While at Orange High, he also served as the athletic director before becoming an assistant principal in 2011. As the assistant principal, he was responsible for special education, interventions, and curriculum and instruction.

Craig is extremely proud of the commitment to excellence and the amazing accomplishments by the students and staff at Canyon High School. He feels extremely fortunate to have been able to share in the many successes of the past four years with his fellow Comanche community and looks forward to the many accomplishments to come this year.

Growing up in small towns in Oklahoma and Texas with educator parents, Craig understands the important role a school plays as a part of the community and enjoys working with all stakeholders in the Canyon community to make CHS the best it can be. He is a graduate of the University of Texas-Arlington and holds a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in education administration. Craig and his wife, Veronica, are residents of Orange and are the proud parents of a nine-year old son, Braxton, who attends Serrano Elementary in OUSD.

Dr. John Erratt is pleased and excited to assume the role as Special Education Program Coordinator for Canyon Hills School. He looks forward to supporting the Canyon Hills students and families and as well as continuing Canyon Hills’ history of involvement and partnership with the community. Dr. Erratt spent 20 years as a clinical audiologist before transitioning to become a special education teacher. Dr. Erratt was an education specialist at Villa Park High School for 11 years and has been a special education program coordinator for the last six years.

Dr. Erratt earned a Bachelor’s degree in Russian with an emphasis on linguistics from the University of California, Irvine and a Master’s degree in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara. As he made a career change to education, he earned Special Education teaching credentials and a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis on Disability Studies from Chapman University. He holds Education Specialist teaching credentials with mild/moderate and moderate/severe authorizations, an Educational Audiology credential, and an Administrative Services Credential.

On a personal note, Dr. Erratt is an Orange County native, growing up in Garden Grove. He and his wife enjoy spending time with family and friends, especially their two daughters and three granddaughters in the Boston area and in Northern California.

Dr. Erratt believes in supporting all students and has committed his career in education to supporting students with disabilities. He looks forward to building on the positive work done by the staff and families at Canyon Hills School. He is dedicated to supporting the unique academic, social-emotional, and physical needs of the Canyon Hills students and their families and looks forward to developing our program with creativity and innovation.
Welcome to Cerro Villa Middle School, home of the VIKINGS! Mrs. Ogan is honored and proud to enter her seventh year as principal of CVMS. Prior to her serving OUSD, Mrs. Ogan served as middle school assistant principal, summer school principal, teacher on special assignment, middle school math teacher, and elementary school teacher in the Placentia-Yorba Linda, Walnut Valley, and Ontario-Montclair school districts.

Mrs. Ogan received her bachelor's degree in child development with a minor in mathematics and a master's degree in educational administration, both from California State University, Fullerton. She holds a multiple-subject teaching credential with an authorization in mathematics and an administrative services credential.

Mrs. Ogan attributes Cerro Villa's success to her outstanding staff, students, parents, and community. Through collaborative efforts, CVMS is rated nationally as one of the top ten schools for its STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) program, showcased as a California Schools to Watch model middle school, and is WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accredited. In partnership with the CV school community, Mrs. Ogan is committed to providing students a dynamic, safe, and supportive learning environment, which will prepare them with the highest quality education and assist them in realizing their full potential.

#WeAreCV

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Chapman Hills Elementary
170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043

Jana Saenz is excited to embark on her sixth year as principal at Chapman Hills and is very excited to have a wonderful year. She is honored to be working with the amazing Bobcat staff, students and parent community in an effort to work collaboratively in continuing the wonderful traditions and level of success Chapman Hills has experienced in the past.

Mrs. Saenz is a transplant to Southern California. She grew up in Tucson, AZ and moved to California to attend Chapman University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She then received her Master's Degree in Special Education from Chapman University and later an Administrative Credential for California State University, Fullerton. Mrs. Saenz has had the pleasure of holding numerous roles during her 19 years in the Orange Unified School District, including special education teacher, general education teacher, instructional coach and assistant principal. She has a passion for curriculum and instruction, Positive Behavioral Support, positive character traits and promoting a positive climate and culture!

Mrs. Saenz resides in Orange with her husband and three children. All three of Mrs. Saenz' children attend school in Orange Unified School District thus she is truly vested in the Orange Unified School District both as a professional and a parent.

She is looking forward to highlighting Chapman Hills’ best practices in technology usage across the grades levels, STEM, writing, small group differentiated instruction and AVID 4th-6th grades. This year Chapman Hills is excited to add TVs to the classrooms, a new shade structure for the kindergarten yard and a new “fresh start” room to enhance our PBIS (R.O.A.R. Respectful, Organized, Appropriate Attitude, and Responsible) protocol, and continuing our endeavor of our school wide focus of John Wooden's Pyramid of Success character traits. Bobcats R.O.A.R!
Antoinette Coe
Principal

Mrs. Antoinette Coe is excited to take on the role as Principal at Crescent Elementary. With 23 years of education experience, 18 of those have been spent with Orange Unified School District. She's held the positions of teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal, most recently serving as an Instructional Specialist working for the District and as an Interim Principal for Imperial Elementary. She credits her five months at Imperial with reigniting her desire to lead a school of her own. With an extensive and varied background in curriculum and instruction, best instructional strategies, and supporting all learners, Principal Coe is uniquely qualified to lead in 2020's unprecedented learning environment.

The years she has spent in education have only reinforced her belief that increased student engagement produces lifelong learners with the critical thinking skills and confidence necessary for future success. Mrs. Coe is devoted to the collaboration of staff and community to create a safe and positive learning environment for all of her students.

Principal Coe graduated from Cal State San Marcos with her BA in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Sociology, along with her multiple-subject teaching credential. She received her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Cal State Fullerton and her Administrative Credentials from UCI. She resides in Anaheim with her husband and enjoys visiting her two oldest children in Portland and Michigan. Her youngest is beginning her own career in education this year. In her spare time, social restrictions notwithstanding, she also enjoys hiking and traveling.

El Modena High School
3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331

Hello Vanguard Families! My name is Jill Katevas and I am the proud principal here at El Modena High School. I was born and raised in Long Beach, California and earned my bachelor's degree in English Literature from Long Beach State, and later earned my teaching credential from Chapman University. I have proudly served as a public educator in the Orange Unified School District for the past 21 years. Though education is a second career for me, I learned early on that my ability to work with others, think on my feet, and persevere through all challenges are what ultimately determined my level of success. Thus, I am committed to fostering these skills in all students.

I am truly honored to support the service of the incredibly dedicated staff of El Modena High School as they support our students. In Vanguard Nation, we have a student-first focus and strive to create a wide array of opportunities for students so that each one will find a connection to our school that drives their social, emotional, and academic success. As a corroboration of this belief, El Modena was recently awarded the title of Best Public School in Orange County by the readers of Parenting OC Magazine. And, in 2019, El Modena was named one of America’s Best High Schools.

Given my prior experience in the corporate world, it is very rewarding to work at a school that provides the largest Career Technical Education Program in the district. El Modena offers students a wide variety of vocational pathways: Arts, Media, and Entertainment; Biomedical and Health Services; Information and Communications Technology; Education and Child Development; Business Management; Engineering; Public Services; and Legal. We also offer two pathways that are completely unique within our district: Culinary Arts and Construction.

Despite these challenging times, I intend to maintain our commitment to ensuring all students are ready for life beyond high school. Our intensive college preparatory programs include AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), 28 AP classes including AP Capstone, DMC (Digital Marketing Collaborative) complete with a printing lab, Dual Enrollment with Santiago Community College and Articulation with 6 other colleges, and Upward Bound. There are truly a plethora of opportunities for students to discover who they are and what they want to do. I am looking forward to continuing to sustain and enhance these programs in virtual, hybrid, and face-to-face learning platforms.

As the principal, it is exciting to be a part of so many wonderful learning experiences available to students. However, the entire Vanguard staff agrees: the best thing about El Modena High School is our kids. My own experience validates this statement. It will truly be my honor to continue to serve the El Modena community and support our students in their high school journey.
Mrs. Christi Yokoyama is looking forward to the 2020-21 school year continuing as the principal of Esplanade Elementary School. This marks her 21st year in education. She began her educational career as a classroom teacher and teacher leader at both the elementary and secondary levels. This will be her 8th year in administration in Orange Unified, having first served as the Assistant Principal at McPherson Magnet School and now as Principal at Esplanade Elementary School.

Mrs. Yokoyama holds a Bachelor’s degree from California State University, Fresno and a Master’s degree from California State University, Fullerton, both in Biological Sciences. She also holds a Multiple Subject Credential and an Administrative Services Credential. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and a Cotsen Family Foundation Fellow in which she specialized in reading and writing instruction.

Mrs. Yokoyama is proud to be part of the OUSD family and is excited to continue the progress occurring at Esplanade Elementary School where the school staff has been working tirelessly to provide world-class education opportunities for all students. Mrs. Yokoyama looks forward to continuing to work with the community, students, and staff of Esplanade in their pursuit of 21st Century teaching and learning through a strong foundation of core academics integrated with STEAM exploration. It is an exciting time to be an Eagle! #EsplanadeStrong
Fletcher Elementary
515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181

Sara Pelly is the proud principal of Fletcher Elementary - OUSD’s Dual Language Mandarin Immersion School. She is attempting to learn Mandarin along with her students, although her students are learning much more quickly!

Mrs. Pelly began her teaching career at Crescent Primary School in OUSD where she taught for nine years, and then moved to Centralia School District in Buena Park where she taught in the Gifted and Talented program with first and second graders. After becoming an administrator, Mrs. Pelly was a Student Support Community Liaison and then served as a principal for eight years. She was able to learn some sign language at her most recent school in Centralia that housed a Total Communication Program serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

A native Coloradoan, Mrs. Pelly attended Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma where she earned her teaching credential and a B.S. in Elementary Education. After working as a College Admissions Counselor, she traveled to California for a job interview, and instantly fell in love with the beautiful city of Orange. Teaching preschool for the summer, Mrs. Pelly decided to stay in California to begin her teaching career, and earn her M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction and Administrative Services Credential at Chapman University.

Mrs. Pelly spends her free time volunteering at local nursing homes, shelters and hospitals with her dog Orvis—a licensed therapy dog! She and her husband, Mike, also enjoy fly-fishing, are involved in the Men's and Women's Lacrosse Parent Booster program at Chapman University, and are a part of the Community Foundation of Orange.

Handy Elementary
860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183

Mrs. Erika Krohn is the proud principal of Handy Elementary School. She is looking forward to continuing Handy’s commitment to learning today makes a brighter tomorrow. This is Mrs. Krohn’s 3rd principalship in Orange Unified. Prior to coming to Orange Unified, she was a principal and assistant principal in La Puente, and an elementary school teacher in Rowland Heights. Her recognitions include: Orange Unified Administrator of the Year in 2012/2013, PTA Outstanding Administrator in 2013, and Outstanding Administrator from Los Angeles County Bilingual Director Association in 2008. Under her leadership and with collaboration of staff, her schools have earned the Golden Bell Award, Title I Academic Achievement Award, and Gold Ribbon School.

Mrs. Krohn is a product of Orange Unified Schools: Taft Elementary, Cerro Villa Middle School, and Villa Park High School. She earned her Bachelor’s degree from California State University, Fullerton, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Chapman University, and a Master’s Degree from National University. United with the staff, Handy proudly offers a one to one iPad program, AVID, restorative practices, Visual and Performing Arts conservatory classes, Robotics Team, and differentiated learning to meet the needs of all students.

On a personal note, Mrs. Krohn enjoys spending time with her husband and 2 children. When not at Handy, she can be found at her kids’ sporting and dance events and skiing the slopes of Mammoth.

Mrs. Krohn is looking forward to a productive school year with the dynamic Handy community. She and the staff will be working collaboratively to provide extraordinary learning experiences that the students will never forget!

Imperial Elementary
400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282

Amber Miller is the proud principal at Imperial Elementary School. She looks forward to another year of collaborating and building partnerships with the students, teachers, and the community of Imperial Elementary. Mrs. Miller has dedicated her career to the Orange Unified School District where she has served as an educator for 17 years. She began her career as an elementary classroom teacher. Throughout her time in Orange Unified, Mrs. Miller has been a Reading Resource Teacher, ELD Resource Teacher, Title One Instructional Specialist, Assistant Principal, and currently starting her third year as Principal at Imperial Elementary.

Mrs. Miller received a Bachelor’s degree, Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential, and Master’s degree in Elementary Education from Chapman University. She also holds an Administrative Credential and Master’s Degree in Educational Administration from Concordia University.

As a lifelong educator, Mrs. Miller is passionate about fostering a positive school culture and climate where every child can be successful. She is dedicated to ensuring that all students are exposed to 21st Century learning opportunities and that students gain the skills necessary for life-long success.

As an Orange County native, Mrs. Miller shares her life with her husband, three children and golden retriever named Pilot. She enjoys spending time with her family and traveling. During these unprecedented times, Amber Miller is optimistic about SOARing into the 2020-2021 school year. With an incredible staff, students and community, Mrs. Miller has no doubt that the Eagle family will bond together and SOAR through these trying times and school year. We are Eagles, Watch Us SOAR!
My journey in the education field began right out of high school as an instructional aide and activity supervisor at the elementary school I attended as a child. I taught in the Santa Ana Unified School District for 18 years. In SAUSD, I also held a position as an Assistant Principal at an elementary school for three years. Within this position, my passion grew in creating positive school culture and building relationships with staff, students and parents. Now I begin my fourth year at Jordan and it continues to be an amazing experience working with such an awesome community!

Jordan is the second elementary school in OUSD to implement a Spanish Dual Immersion Program and the first to integrate newly adopted Computer Science standards. We have been working closely with our District experts, Lego Education, and OC Stem (UCI School of Engineering) to create a Computer Science curriculum based on the CA K-12 Computer Science Standards. Integrated curriculum has been created and is tailored to this unique program. We are very excited of the opportunities we offer students!

As an educator, I continue to make every effort to ensure that each child is treated with respect and is in a safe school. I believe that it is important that families and staff members work collaboratively to help students succeed. My personal mission is to ensure that students will be well equipped to impact, influence and contribute to a global society with the freedom to explore and develop their strengths. It is not going to be the traditional year, but we will still work hard to make sure every student has a successful school year!

Jordan Scholars Can and Will Succeed!

La Veta Elementary
2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155

Mrs. Sheryl Anderson-Glass is proud to serve as principal of La Veta Elementary School. She and her husband, Stephen and their daughter Teagan reside in the Orange community. Mrs. Anderson-Glass holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education and a Master’s Degree in Health and Human Performance from Oklahoma State University. This will be Mrs. Anderson-Glass’ 19th year in education serving the Orange Unified School District. For the past six years, she served as the Assistant Principal at both, Villa Park and Orange High School. Mrs. Anderson-Glass also served for 9 years as an Athletic Director (Orange County Athletic Director Association’s Athletic Director of the Year) and three years as the Activities Director at Orange High. In addition to her duties as Athletic and Activities Director, she has taught Physical Education, Health, Freshman Seminar, and Leadership courses. She has also served as an administrative team member, Positive Behavior Instructional Support leader, and WASC committee leader.

Mrs. Anderson-Glass is passionate about student engagement and school connectedness. She works with the entire school community to ensure that all stakeholders are represented and will develop strong relationships. Mrs. Anderson-Glass looks forward to continuing the growth of the wonderful programs that La Veta Elementary has to offer. Already, she is proud of her outstanding staff, students, parents, and community.

Go Vikings!

McPherson Magnet
333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384

Brenna Godsey is excited and honored to be the new principal at McPherson Magnet School for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Godsey is committed to fostering positive relationships with the students, staff, parents, and community of McPherson Magnet School during this challenging and unique school year. Principal Godsey has had the pleasure of working with Orange Unified students for the last nineteen years. She served as the Principal of Palmyra Elementary School for six years and as an Assistant Principal at Canyon High School for five years. Prior to moving into administration, Mrs. Godsey taught Science and coordinated the AP/IB programs at Canyon. Mrs. Godsey received her Bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from the University of California San Diego with a Minor in Law and Society. She attended California State University, Fullerton where she earned her teaching and administrative credentials along with a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership. Mrs. Godsey lives in the Orange Unified community with her husband and three children. She enjoys skiing and going to the beach with her family.
As we begin another exciting school year, we would like to welcome back all families to Lampson, a place that is rooted in its community and fosters critical thinkers today to solve tomorrow’s challenges.

Mr. Angel, our principal, is in his fifth year at Lampson Elementary. He has served in various educational capacities such as K-6th grade teacher, middle school dean, middle and high school assistant principal. Mr. Angel earned a BA in Sociology and Global Studies from UC Santa Barbara and a MA in Elementary Education from Loyola Marymount University. Mr. Angel loves spending time with his family. He and his wife, Gladys, have three amazing kids- Mia, Mateo, and Max. He is a devoted Laker, Dodger, and 49er fan!

Although we are starting the school year with distance learning, the 2020-21 school year promises to be filled with golden opportunities for our students. We embark on this journey with a pledge to you that Lampson will continue to provide our students with a learning environment of excellence with high expectations and the opportunity to become responsible, resilient, and productive world citizens in a changing and diverse society. We will strive to develop literacy across all content areas as a foundation to inspire each of our students to pursue their dreams and develop into tomorrow’s global community leaders.

We want...we need...and we value your involvement and support in your child’s education! Get involved by serving on our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), School Site Council (SSC), English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC), and/or other school groups.

We are excited about the upcoming school year! Here is to an incredible new school year as we work together to make Lampson a great educational institute for our students. Together, we will make a difference in the lives of our students.

For our latest school information and happenings follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram @ Lampson Leopards or visit our website at https://www.orangensd.org/lampson-elementary-school-k-5

**Linda Vista Elementary**

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201

Gigi Kelley is beginning her third year at Linda Vista, and her ninth as a principal within the Orange Unified School District. She began her career in education after earning her bachelor’s degree in Community Health Education from CSU Long Beach. After graduation, her first professional job was as a Prevention Education Specialist working in partnership with schools in Southern California. Gigi returned to school, earning her California Teaching Credential from CSU San Bernardino. Her teaching career took her first to Rialto and then to Fullerton School District as a classroom teacher.

Hearing the call of administration, Gigi returned to school to earn a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. She remained in Fullerton, however she moved out of the classroom and into district administration. She served that district as a Program Specialist for Gifted and Talented (GATE) program and also the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program. She also had the opportunity to serve as Interim Junior High Assistant Principal.

Through her experiences as an educator, Gigi has had the opportunity to develop new and innovative approaches to student success by creating, planning, and implementing instructional practices for district-wide programs. She is an Apple Distinguished Educator, bringing innovative technology to classroom instruction. She has also attended the Discovery Education Principal’s Summit, which encourages strategies that support 21st century learning.

Gigi developed and taught curriculum for teacher GATE Certification, in partnership with Hope International University and has worked as an adjunct professor for HIU, teaching a course in Educational Leadership.

Now a true Leopard, Gigi believes that all Linda Vista students have PAWS, encouraging them to expand their Potential, develop Aspirations, apply Wisdom, and show their Spirit.

To join our sales team and work from your home, please call Kay

562-493-3193 • www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Thank you loyal readers for all you are doing during Covid-19.
Mr. Dennis McCuistion is beginning his sixth year as Principal of Orange High School and he is entering his 23rd year as an educator and 25th year with the Orange Unified School District. Mr. McCuistion started his career as a campus supervisor at Orange High School and later became a special educator at Portola Middle School where he gained tremendous experience as a teacher. He went on to work at Orange High School where he taught for 9 years, was the head baseball coach, athletic director, and eventually serving as an assistant principal. In 2011, he was appointed as the Coordinator of Alternative Education and ROP where he worked with Community Day School, ROP, Educational Options and Home School. In 2013 he was appointed as the Principal of Richland High School serving students from all OUSD High Schools. Mr. McCuistion earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Chapman University and a Master’s in Education Administration from National University.

Dennis has dedicated his career to serving the Orange community. He believes in the OUSD core values, and trusts that OUSD will continue to serve as a beacon of support for the entire community while providing equitable opportunities for all students. Dennis, his wife Julia, son Luke, and daughter Avery are proud residents of Orange.

Heather Darrow, Principal of Olive Elementary School, is proud to be a part of the educational team of Orange Unified. Prior to her administrative career, Mrs. Darrow was an elementary classroom teacher, a Teacher on Special Assignment, and an Assistant Principal. As a teacher and administrator, Mrs. Darrow has served on many site and district level committees, which has instilled in her a passion for helping every child succeed. Always looking for learning opportunities, Mrs. Darrow earned two Master of Arts degrees from Concordia University, one in Curriculum and Instruction and the other in Educational Administration. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree and her Teaching Credential at California State University, Fullerton. Mrs. Darrow is beginning her fifth year as the Principal at Olive Elementary.

Mrs. Darrow grew up in Orange County, where she spent several years as an Orange resident and OUSD parent. Mrs. Darrow’s positive experience as an OUSD parent and love for the community is what inspired her to join Orange Unified School District as an educator. As she begins the 2020-21 school year with the Olive Elementary community, Mrs. Darrow is committed to working together to support the caring and dedicated team that makes Olive such a special place to learn and work.

When she is not at work, Mrs. Darrow enjoys spending time with her husband and three daughters. They often watch movies together, go on walks, and always eat dinner as a family. It is only with the support from her family that Mrs. Darrow has been able to fully appreciate the journey through her educational career.

Nohl Canyon
4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203

Mr. Jones is honored and excited to begin his second year at Nohl Canyon Elementary School. He looks forward to continuing to build collaborative partnerships with staff, students and parents to provide innovative learning experiences for all students!

Mr. Jones previously served Orange Unified School District as an Assistant Principal at Villa Park High School for five years. Prior to his administration position, Mr. Jones taught Physical Education at Cerro Villa Middle School (nine years) and J.H. Hull Middle School (6 years) in the Torrance Unified School District. Mr. Jones earned his Master’s Degree in Educational Administration in 2012 from Concordia University. He completed his Kinesiology and Physical Education degree along with his teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach.

Mr. Jones’ passion is to create an environment where students, staff and parents feel welcomed and safe on a daily basis. He strives for all students to feel engaged in their learning environment. Nohl Canyon is that place and Mr. Jones is humbled to be part of a wonderful community.

Olive Elementary
3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218

Orange High School
525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211

Heather Darrow
Principal

Mrs. Darrow, Principal of Olive Elementary School, is proud to be a part of the educational team of Orange Unified. Prior to her administrative career, Mrs. Darrow was an elementary classroom teacher, a Teacher on Special Assignment, and an Assistant Principal. As a teacher and administrator, Mrs. Darrow has served on many site and district level committees, which has instilled in her a passion for helping every child succeed. Always looking for learning opportunities, Mrs. Darrow earned two Master of Arts degrees from Concordia University, one in Curriculum and Instruction and the other in Educational Administration. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree and her Teaching Credential at California State University, Fullerton. Mrs. Darrow is beginning her fifth year as the Principal at Olive Elementary.

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Davine Jones is excited and honored to have the opportunity to be the new Principal of Palmyra Elementary! She believes the primary years are a time for growth, challenge, and discovery. As the new Principal, she looks forward to working with the Palmyra staff and families developing academic achievement, social emotional well-being, and college and career readiness for all students. This is Davine's 25th year as a professional educator. Her experiences range from her previous role as Assistant Principal, Middle School, in Capistrano Unified School District as well as serving, as a Secondary Program Specialist, Teacher on Special Assignment, Resource Teacher; and General Education teacher. In addition to her teaching in the K-12 public schools, Davine also taught Curriculum and Instruction as an Adjunct Professor for the University of Phoenix. Davine holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master's degree in Special Education from California State University, San Bernardino. She also holds a Multiple Subject Credential, a Specialist Instruction Credential in Special Education, and an Administrative Services Credential. Davine brings to OUSD an extensive knowledge of inclusive schooling best practices and is well versed in Special Education legal mandates and protocols.

Mr. Jeremy Mortensen has been in education for 20 years, this being his ninth as a principal in the Orange Unified School District. Mr. Mortensen has lived and taught all over the world including Canada and later Australia, where he also earned his Master's of Education degree from Griffith University, Gold Coast Australia. He later taught in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Fontana, California, where he earned the Teacher of the Year award in 2005. Mr. Mortensen taught grades three through seventh during his time in the classroom and has been a school administrator for 12 years.

Mr. Mortensen believes in a 21st Century, blended learning classroom environment where students not only learn the foundational skills needed to succeed, but also integrate real-world skills that will enable each student to be college and career ready for tomorrow's Corporate America. An inclusive, hands-on, technological, collaborative approach is at the forefront of his educational model. Students are given the opportunity to have fun while they learn through the guidance of their knowledgeable and caring teachers, who understand the demands of our “digital native” students while focusing on each child's individual needs.

2020-2021 will mark Mr. Mortensen's fifth year at Panorama Elementary School. According to Mr. Mortensen, Panorama is a wonderful school with incredible students, families, teachers, and staff members. With all that has occurred through this past school year, Mr. Mortensen is looking forward to a year of greater structure and normalcy in the 2020-2021. He anticipates building even more memories for years to come for our community, staff, and students at Panorama. “The future looks bright for our Panthers!”

Despite our “new normal,” it is going to be a great year at Panorama.

Go, Panthers!
It is with great enthusiasm that Jeff Morgan continues his role of Principal at Portola Middle School. Born and raised in the Bay Area, Jeff graduated from Chico State with a BA in Spanish and later earned his teaching credential from Cal State Fullerton. This is Jeff’s fourteenth year in education, all within OUSD. He has served as a Spanish teacher and Activities Director at Villa Park High School and as an Assistant Principal at Orange High School for four and a half years. Jeff is looking forward to his 3rd year and kicking off the year celebrating the many successes from the previous school year during unprecedented times. Jeff looks forward to building and growing programs at Portola Middle School. Currently, he is focused on growing the AVID and ASB programs at Portola. When students are involved, he believes that they are more engaged in their education. This philosophy comes from his time as an Activities Director and witnessing the direct correlation between extracurricular activities and student achievement. The belief is that all programs support each other.

Throughout his time in education, Jeff has seen the value in building relationships with parents and the community to support the overall vision of the school site. As a community, we have the ability to foster the growth of our youth to prepare them for what is next. In this case, that would be high school. Jeff believes that we must prepare students for the academic rigors of high school and for being a citizen of character as well. We continue to give our students the tools needed for success, so they can pursue and reach their goals and passions.

Mrs. Sally Hughson is in her 6th year as principal at Prospect Elementary School. Mrs. Hughson was the principal at Linda Vista Elementary School for 7 years; 2008-2015. She has worked at Cambridge, Handy, West Orange and Running Springs where she was the Assistant Principal. Mrs. Hughson taught lower and upper grades, was a reading resource teacher, ELD resource teacher and an Instructional Coach.

Mrs. Hughson grew up in the Orange area and attended Orange Unified schools beginning in kindergarten and graduated from El Modena High School. She earned her BA in Communication Disorders and a Master degree in Educational Administration from California State Fullerton; she earned her teaching Credential from Chapman University.

Mrs. Hughson lives in Santa Ana with her husband Steve of 40 years. Mrs. Hughson enjoys time with her granddaughters, relaxing in the desert, walking Peter’s Canyon and spending time with her family and friends.

This school year will be markedly different due to the COVID pandemic. Richland High School staff has been making plans over the summer and working hard to implement safe practices for all. Even though we will still be teaching remotely, we are eager to get back to teaching after a long summer break. As the new principal, I am looking forward to the year ahead with its many challenges. I grew up in Anaheim, California and I am married with two children. I majored in History, minored in Mathematics at San Diego State University, and received graduate degrees from CSUF and UCLA. My first job in education was coaching middle school volleyball and basketball while still in high school. I completed my student teaching at Canyon High School and taught summer school there as well. I spent 10 years in the business sector before returning to teaching in 2000. I have taught both AP and special education classes in multiple subject areas and love the opportunity to interact with students. I have been an administrator for over 10 years and I feel truly at home at Richland. I am looking forward to working with at-promise students at Richland High School. The motto here is for students to SOAR. We teach them to be Skilled, Organized, Accountable, and Respectful. These are the skills needed to be successful both in school and in life. We are committed at Richland to fostering these qualities in all of our students and to improving the opportunities of all students for the college and career paths that lie ahead.
Renee Ybarra is very excited to be beginning her fourth year as the principal at Sycamore Elementary. This is her 25th year in education, and she loves being part of Orange Unified. She spent many years as an elementary teacher, receiving her Bachelor's degree in Child Development and teaching credential in 1995, a Master's degree in 2002, and a Master's degree in Administration in 2012.

Mrs. Ybarra has lived in Orange for 15 years. Her two daughters and husband are all products of OUSD (VPHS class of '18 & '21, and OHS class of '89). The city of Orange has become Mrs. Ybarra's adopted hometown. In her free time, she enjoys reading, gardening, and baking.

Mrs. Ybarra is passionate about students learning and gaining knowledge through a wide variety of experiences, both in and out of the classroom. She cares deeply about the whole child and understands that every aspect of a child's life impacts their learning, which is why the Sycamore team developed the mission statement: "Sycamore Elementary is committed to supporting our students by providing a foundation of Emotional well-being, Academic excellence, and Leadership opportunities." Mrs. Ybarra is looking forward to continuing the work that the Sycamore team has begun, focusing on supporting students in their social and emotional lives, learning about our community, and utilizing technology to communicate ideas in creative ways.

The challenges presented this past spring with distance learning were tackled with such grace and professionalism at Sycamore. Mrs. Ybarra was so proud of her staff and community in making the transition to learning while at home, she is confident that beginning the year in this manner for 20-21 will go just as smoothly. Though this learning situation is not ideal, she knows Sycamore Sea Lions will handle it by being: Safe, Supportive, and Scholarly!
Laura Kresl is the newly appointed Principal of Serrano Elementary School, home of the eagles! She is honored to have the opportunity to lead a school with such a rich tradition of education!

Mrs. Kresl has been dedicated to serving the students of Orange Unified for more than 12 years. She has taught both elementary and middle school students, and worked at the district office as a Teacher on Special Assignment for STEM & Arts Integration. Her most recent administrative experience has been as Coordinator of K-12 Innovation & Instructional Design. In that role she was fortunate to oversee many programs including elementary visual & performing arts, AVID, GATE, and science, which allowed her to work with the Serrano staff and walk through classrooms on many occasions.

As we all know, this school year will be very different from any other school year. Mrs. Kresl is committed to ensuring the safety of students and staff while also providing a rich learning experience for the students at Serrano. She is also committed to ensuring students establish meaningful relationships and have a nurturing environment where they can learn and grow. Whether that is through distance or in-person learning, these will be integral to her work at Serrano.

Dr. Jim D’Agostino is starting his 11th year as the Executive Director at Santiago Charter Middle School. He takes pride in being visible to parents and students and demonstrates that by greeting everyone each morning as they enter the Santiago campus. His philosophy of making everyone feel welcomed and valued into the school, while continuing to strive toward academic excellence, is part of the leadership style that he brings to the school and the entire school community. His positive attitude and energy has helped to create a very welcoming and caring culture at Santiago which has resulted in increased enrollment and community involvement.

Dr. D’Agostino is a former history teacher and special education teacher. He has been an administrator for the past 16 years and believes that building and fostering healthy relationships is a critical component to success in life. Personalization is the one thing that he prides himself on bringing to his students and school community. Prior to becoming an educational leader, Dr. D (as the students call him) owned a restaurant in Buffalo, NY and was involved in a family business as a licensed insurance agent. He loves working at Santiago, as it ties into both the business, and educational aspects, of his professional background.

Dr. D’Agostino credits his beautiful wife Valerie for all of her support in his personal life, and credits his staff and faculty for all of Santiago’s success. Dr. D’Agostino is also very involved in the Orange community serving on the Community Foundation of Orange Executive Board, formally serving on the Santiago Canyon College Foundation Board, The National University Advisory Board, and The Pure Game Board of Directors. He is also a huge New York Yankees and Syracuse Orange sports fan.

Mrs. Pedroza is excited and honored to be starting her fifth year as Co-Principal of Santiago Charter Middle School and to be a part of a community dedicated to the success of all Santanas; a community who sees potential in every Santana and a community empathetic to the personalized needs of each Santana. Mrs. Pedroza’s first year at Santiago was filled with so many memorable moments and over 1000 incredible students that she is excitedly anticipating another great school year.

Mrs. Pedroza started her career in education ten years ago as a Biology Teacher at El Modena High School and had a variety of leadership roles at the school site. In her five years of teaching at El Modena, she was named El Modena Teacher of the Year and PTSA Teacher of the Year. From the classroom, Mrs. Pedroza served as OUSD’s District Office Assessment Coordinator and then Principal of Serrano Elementary. During her time as an Orange Unified administrator, she was recognized for her work to support the district’s transition to new assessments by being named OUSD Administrator of the Year and ACSA (Association of California School Administrator) Region 17 Technology Administration of the Year. Mrs. Pedroza is passionate about Educational Technology, STEM Education, early literacy and building those 21st Century Skills required for students to be active and inspired stakeholders in their education.

Mrs. Pedroza lives in Orange with her husband Robert and their 8 year-old daughter, Addisyn and 6 year-old son, Trent. Mrs. Pedroza is proud to be a “Santana” and looks forward to another great school year.
Dr. Sara Beggs has worked in Orange Unified School District and the field of education for seventeen years. Following nine years of elementary teaching experience, she moved to the District Office as an instructional specialist supporting teachers and students in curriculum, instruction, and intervention. She then accepted an administrative position as Coordinator of Inclusive Schooling. Dr. Beggs is thrilled to start her third year as Principal for Villa Park Elementary School and is honored to carry on the rich traditions and rigorous learning environment currently in place at VPE.

Dr. Beggs grew up in Orange County, received her undergraduate degree from Radford University, and her graduate degree from Chapman University. She was awarded her Ph. D. in Education and Disability Studies from Chapman University in 2017. Dr. Beggs' deep-rooted philosophy and belief that ALL children can thrive and be successful in the general education environment drives her passion to ensure a Multi-tiered System of Support for all students. She embraces the whole child, engages every learner, and empowers all students. Furthermore, Dr. Beggs views a safe and collaborative school environment as key to a successful school culture. Partnerships with parents and community partners are essential components to that success.

Dr. Beggs is a proud mother of two beautiful little girls Charlotte (7), and Caroline (4). Charlotte is in second grade and Caroline is in TK. As a mom of school-age children, Dr. Beggs is keenly aware of the importance of family involvement and the significance of the school community. During her free time, Sara enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with her daughters and husband, Jeff, and their Great Dane, Winston.

As the VPE principal, you can expect that she will be visible, accessible, and collaborative. Dr. Beggs is looking forward to working together as partners in learning.

Go Bobcats!

Taft’s Principal, Connie Smith, celebrates 39 years in education. Her experience includes classroom teacher, mentor teacher, IBM education consultant, site administrator and district curriculum coordinator. Connie came to Taft in 2014 and in 2016 she and the Taft Team received the distinct honor of becoming a California Gold Ribbon and Title I High Academic Achieving School!

Connie earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Redlands and her Master’s degree in School Administration from California State University, Fullerton. She taught in the Orange Unified School District, served as an Assistant Principal in the Capistrano Unified School District and Principal in Tustin Unified School District.

Connie’s many professional associations and accomplishments have included former Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 17 Elementary Administrator Representative, Adjunct Professor at Concordia University, member of the Tustin Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors and Orange Unified School District’s 2010-2011 Administrator of the Year.

Connie was born and raised in Orange County. She has been married to Phillip Smith for 27 years and is proud of her two adult sons, Garrett, who is a student at Concordia University Irvine and Grant who is a graduate of the University of San Francisco.

Smith says, “Our entire team is excited to serve our Taft students, parents and community. We have a fabulous year planned to promote the academic and social emotional success of our students.”

REduce.
REuse.
RECYCLE.
Welcome to West Orange Elementary, Home of the Warriors! At West Orange, we strive for academic excellence by providing all students a meaningful and rigorous learning experience.

Dr. Monica Murray is honored and enthusiastic to be the principal at West Orange Elementary. Over the past 20 years, she has attained a Bachelor in Liberal Arts with a minor in History, a Masters in Multicultural Education, and a Multiple Subject Credential with authorizations in English and History, an Administrative Credential, Gifted and Talented certification, and a Doctorate in Education with an emphasis on Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. During the past 19 years, she has acquired experience as a pre-school teacher, elementary teacher, curriculum specialist, administrator of professional development, coordinator of TK-12th grade curriculum, and as a principal.

She has dedicated her career in creating learning environments embedded in high expectations with a focus on empowering students, parents, and staff to become leaders. She firmly believes that in life you must, “Be the change you want to see in the world” – Ghandi. As a school leader, she wants to empower others to understand their potential, build their potential, and exceed their potential. It is with great enthusiasm she leads West Orange Elementary and is looking forward to creating multiple opportunities for all especially during Distance Learning!

Dr. Monica Murray
Principal
West Orange Elementary
243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283

Ms. Preciado began working in Long Beach, at Jordan High School as an On Campus Alternative Suspension Monitor, while attending California State University, Fullerton. She then moved to Milliken High School in Long Beach as a Bilingual Parent Liaison. After she completed her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology, with a minor in Spanish Literature, Ms. Preciado began her tenure in Orange Unified as a Spanish teacher at Canyon High School. She taught every level of Spanish from the introductory level Spanish I to AP Spanish Literature. During that time, she returned to California State University, Fullerton to complete her Master’s Degree in School Administration. After Ms. Preciado’s 12-year teaching tenure, she had the privilege of making El Modena High School her home for three years as the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction. After 15 years of secondary education, Ms. Preciado then served as Principal of West Orange Elementary School for three and a half years. Although she cherished her time at West Orange, Ms. Preciado is very excited to make Yorba Middle School her new home. She is particularly looking forward to continuing her work with AVID implementation, targeted interventions, technology integration and quality first instruction. Outside of school, Ms. Preciado enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, running slowly and eating food she does not need to cook herself.

Sandra Preciado-Martin
Principal
Yorba Academy of the Arts Middle School
935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161

It is with great humility, honor and responsibility that I begin my fifth year as Principal at Villa Park High School. Villa Park is not only home of the Spartans...we are a School of Excellence (where Winners Win!), we are a California Gold Ribbon School and we continue to exercise our six year full WASC Accreditation for 2018-2024! I am also beginning my 14th year as a member of the Leadership Team in the Orange Unified School District.

I have previously served Orange Unified from 2007-2010 at El Modena High School as Assistant Principal, Curriculum/Instruction, ROP, Cheer and Athletics; Principal at Cerro Villa Middle School from 2010-2014 and Administrative Director, Student and Community Services, 2014-2016. Before joining Orange Unified, I served in the Downey Unified School District as adult school teacher, social studies teacher, football coach and Vice Principal at the comprehensive high school level for 13 years.

My wife Jennifer (a Canyon High School graduate) and I have two children: Katelyn, 24, graduated from Canyon High School and recently graduated from Chapman University and Kenny, 22, graduated from (you guessed it!) Villa Park High School and Cerritos College and now plays Division 2 college football at Lake Erie College in Ohio. Thankfully, I am now happy to report the Comanche-Spartan score in our family is now evenly balanced and tied at two!

I pledge to continue to serve all students, parents, staff and our community. We have an amazing and professional staff and we all look forward to working with you all, our greatest resource, our families, in the upcoming years in continuing OUR School of Excellence that is Villa Park High School!

Dr. Ken Miller
Principal
Villa Park High School
18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020
The Federal Census Bureau

Orange County residents are being asked to participate in one of democracy’s most considerable responsibilities — and it shouldn’t take more than a few minutes of your time.

As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the federal Census Bureau conducts a nationwide population count once every 10 years. This is one of the few national activities the American public does together. It’s also easy, confidential and critically important to our students and their communities.

Along with establishing the number of congressional seats and electoral votes for each state, census data serves as the basis for deciding how approximately $900 billion in federal funds are spent annually, impacting education, housing, public safety and other vital services.

These anonymous statistics also enable local governments to make highly consequential decisions about public safety, including staffing police and fire stations, and they help school districts plan for enrollment shifts.

Meanwhile, businesses rely on census data to open stores, offices and factories that generate new jobs. Real estate developers use these figures to construct new houses and revitalize aging neighborhoods. Residents use the census to support community initiatives.

Despite all that’s at stake, our state is expected to lose about $1,950 per person in annual federal funding as a result of undercounting. But a number of organizations have been working to offset those losses by generating awareness of the 2020 count. OCDE is among them, offering resources for educators along with a social media campaign to help drive home some important points.

For example, we’re spreading the word that the 2020 census is easier than ever. Orange County families were asked to respond starting in March, and the process takes about 10 minutes. In-person visits are only made to households that don’t respond online, by phone or by mail.

Another point worth noting is that any information collected by census-takers is confidential and can only be used for anonymous statistical purposes. In fact, every census employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.

Completing the census is easy, it’s confidential and it’s mandatory. But it’s more than that. It’s a way for all of us to participate in our democracy, ensuring that Congressional representation and taxpayer-funded resources are distributed equitably over the next decade.

Orange County students and families count. Now let’s make sure they’re counted.

Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent
Orange County Department of Education

Milestones and Firsts—Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by October 31, 2020
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a $20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

Gift Card Compliments of Barkate Orthodontics
www.BarkateSmiles.com

BIRTH HOUSE
KISS RECITAL
HIGH SCHOOL CAR
GRADUATION DISNEYLAND
COLLEGE TRAVEL
DATE AIRPLANE RIDE
LOVE BALLOON RIDE
ENGAGEMENT CRUISE
MARRIAGE FIRST TOOTH

Congratulations to Emily Galvan
Winner of our June Word Search Contest!
Sean’s Book Review

Crazy Neighbor
Have you ever heard of a horror game called Hello Neighbor? If you have, and are interested in the backstory, Hello Neighbor: Bad Blood by Carly Anne West is the book for you. The main character is a kid named Aaron. He moved to a new place and discovered that his grandparents are very famous. But while he’s there, he gets asked questions, which stresses him out, so as a choice, he goes places he should not have. Throughout the book, there is a lot of mystery, action, and suspense that will have you hooked. Want to start off right? Then read the other 3 books in the series before this one. But if you want to jump right in, read this one as all of them make you understand their world more than ever. Overall, this is a really fun book and I would rate this a 10/10 on the ‘Awesome Book Scale’!

Sean Cheng is a 6th grader and enjoys speed cubing, playing basketball, and performing tricks on his scooter. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. He loves teaching tricks to his new puppy and taking care of his 3 guinea pigs. He looks forward to boogie boarding at the beach!

Tyson’s Book Review

Be Yourself
Imagine being a kid who cannot move, talk, or write. Wouldn’t that be a hard, sad, and crazy life? Well, Out Of My Mind by Sharon Draper, is a book about a girl who has to live like that every day, and her name is Melody Brooks. She’s really smart, but there is one thing that prevents her from sharing it with the world. That is her cerebral palsy. This disease makes her unable to share her feelings, which makes Melody stuck in her head and drives her nuts! She has to go to school, perform in front of people, and even go through some tragedies. There are people and things that try to prevent her from achieving her goals, but will they stop her? Journey through this amazing book and you will see Melody push through her hard, but entertaining life and sometimes, she goes a little out of her mind!

Tyson is an athletic 7th grader who loves basketball and volleyball. His favorite subjects are PE and math. He is a gentle pet owner and loves taking care of new puppy, Chewie, and 3 guinea pigs. He enjoys spending time with his family.
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