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School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Monrovia Unified School District



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School News

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**Covering the
MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Welcome back to another school year. There have been many changes throughout the years; however, I think we all agree this is the most challenging. Americans are innovative and educators are at the top of the list. Zoom has taken on a whole new meaning to this generation of students. Fortunately, students and educators were proficient with technology to help with the seamless transition to distance learning. Families stepped up to the challenge.

In this issue you will read articles about the opening of school with distance learning and so much more.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contest below.

Our next issue is November 4, 2020. Until then have a Happy Halloween!



Trees –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 Monrovia in the subject line.

Entries must be received by October 15, 2020,
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 Barnes & Noble gift card!

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| PINE | PEACH |
| OAK | PLUM |
| CHESTNUT | ORANGE |
| SYCAMORE | LEMON |
| MAPLE | GRAPEFRUIT |
| APPLE | ELM |
| PEAR | BIRCH |
| WALNUT | OLIVE |
| PECAN | MANDARIN |
| ALMOND | NECTARINE |

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N R A E P A L M O N D R Y J
E L M H G L A K I A Q X T T
C H E S T N U T X O K S I W
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Congratulations to Sophia Mo
Winner of our last Word Search Contest!

Health and Safety is Top Priority



Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

The health and safety of our students, staff, and school community is a top priority at Monrovia Unified. This is why, when we began to look to the start of the 2020-21 school year and evolving COVID-19 health dynamic, our Board of Education made the difficult decision on July 14 to begin the school year through distance learning – even before the state mandate issued by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

From the very start of this health crisis, Monrovia Unified has followed the guidance of the Los Angeles Department of Public Health and the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Though the new school year has started with distance learning, the continued academic and social-emotional development of our students remain at the forefront of every decision we make.

During summer break, Monrovia Unified teachers, staff, and administrators worked collaboratively to gain more knowledge and expertise on the distance learning process to ensure our students receive a robust education, equal to the education received in the classroom.

Our elementary and secondary task forces, comprised of volunteers from the Monrovia Teachers Association, our Parent Teachers Association, District administrators, and California School Employees Association spent countless hours developing instructional frameworks that would provide structure and support for our students and families.

In distance learning, students participate in whole-group and small-group instruction, as well as one-on-one instruction virtually through programs like Zoom and Google Classroom.

We understand the stresses our community has faced since this pandemic erupted and how it has forced so many changes in how we live, work, and learn. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who have partnered with us to develop new ways to continue our service to our students. Thank you for taking your part in ensuring our students continue to receive a high-quality education. Together, we will ensure the success of our scholars and strengthen the bonds within our community.



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Bradoaks *Elementary Science Academy*

930 East Lemon Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2100 • bradoaks.monroviaschools.net



Jayne Nickles
Principal

Flexibility Wins Out!

The 2020–21 history-making school year is off to a great start! Many lessons were gleaned from our experience of teaching remotely last spring, and although school did not begin as we would have wanted, teachers have done a remarkable job of preparing their virtual classrooms for providing engaging and rigorous learning experiences for our students.

Flexibility is key this year. Treasured traditions such as Meet the Teacher took place virtually through individual meetings



between families and teachers. Materials Distribution Day was organized so that students could collect their red Bobcat Bags of needed materials and supplies.

During the first several days of school, teachers spent time getting to know their students, building community, and providing activities to develop friendships. All this was done while teaching students and caregivers how to use new platforms and establishing expectations for online student behavior and setting academic goals.

We got this, Bobcats—we are stronger together!

Canyon Early Learning Center

1000 South Canyon Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2001 • celc.monroviaschools.net



Tom McFadden
Director

Early Distance Learning!

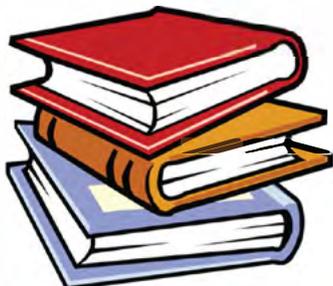
Canyon Early Learning Center is starting the year with a distance-learning model tailored for preschool students. In an unprecedented year for public education, Canyon Early Learning Center, along with the rest of the schools in Monrovia Unified, is starting the year in distance learning. It has been a busy summer with the dramatic changes to the school's programming and instruction.

Canyon Early Learning Center is up for the challenge of creating a preschool-friendly distance-learning program! Canyon Early Learning Center Staff has created synchronous live teaching and asynchronous learning activities within the Canyon Early Learning Center

distance-learning-program structure. Canyon Early Learning Center staff has embraced the new model and prepared for the CELC Distance Learning Program by spending a lot of time and a lot of hard work over the summer on professional development in technology, program structure and alignment of the learning activities to Preschool Learning Foundations and Framework.

Canyon Early Learning Center will be infusing an array of new technology into the program this year, including but not limited to Google Classroom as the distance-learning platform, Parent Square for communications, Zoom technologies for our live instruction and our new online registration process. We are very proud of the work the staff has put into learning all the technology, and we are grateful to our CELC families for being understanding during this time of transition.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



2020-2021



Canyon Oaks H.S./Mountain Park/Monrovia Community Adult

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Flint Fertig
Principal

'Endless Summer'

*By Calvin J. McKendrick,
Assistant Principal*

After what some called an “extended spring break” or an “endless summer vacation,” school finally resumed. While Mountain Park School for independent studies traditionally offers ways to serve the unique needs of all students, the challenges that the COVID-19 virus presented were definitely out of the ordinary.

Fortunately for the students enrolling for the 2020–21 school year, our staff had prepared to navigate through the evolving educational, economic, social and political landscape that took the world by storm in 2020. Opportunities for them to be trained on PLCs, Edgenuity and the Google Suite led to a smooth transition to distance learning. As the fall semester began, many families in our community gravitated to this home-school-type model for elementary students and a virtual classroom for secondary. Thankfully, these learning models have helped lighten the burden of uncertainty during these trying times.

Be safe, and stay healthy!



Clifton Middle School

226 South Ivy Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2600 • clifton.monroviaschools.net



Jennifer Jackson
Principal

Support the Arts!

Clifton is excited to announce the launch of the Clifton Arts Academy. Through community partnerships, the integrated arts opportunities encourage creativity, enhance academic performance, beautify the school campus, and enrich the lives of children. Fine arts, film, photography, graphic arts, poetry, theater, choir, band and orchestra are just some examples of offerings.

Because of distance learning, plans have been altered to allow these opportunities to occur virtually on Mondays, using the platform of Zoom. To begin, the focus will be fine-art contests, performances, virtual classes and distribution of a monthly newsletter. You can become a CAA supporter by identifying someone with a talent to be showcased in our Random Acts of Art performance series, or you can get us in contact with a



resident artist who might be interested in teaching a class to middle school students. Finally, you can become a CAA sponsor by contacting the school.

Mayflower *Elementary*

210 North Mayflower Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2200 • mayflower.monroviaschools.net



Michele Costarella
Principal

Memorable Start

Going back to school was smooth sailing for Mayflower Mariners! On Aug. 19, students, staff and teachers joyfully returned to school via distance learning. Day one was a huge success,

with 99% positive attendance and happy faces excited to connect with their teachers and classmates once again.

The first day of school was preceded by a schoolwide grab-and-go event. Mayflower families drove through the



school parking lot while teachers and staff safely greeted them and delivered all necessary instructional materials and supplies. Our ever-supportive Mayflower PTA participated and was on hand to welcome families and provide important PTA and school information. Mayflower also provided over 275 devices to students in need.

Ample preplanning and hard work on the part of the staff made for a very successful and well-attended event. It was not a typical start to the new school year, but it was certainly memorable.

Monroe *Elementary*

402 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2300 • monroe.monroviaschools.net



Dr. Lily Jarvis
Principal

Crazy Mane Day

Monroe opened this historical school year focused on teaching, engaging, and inspiring our students. On the first day of school, our students arrived, eager and excited to learn. As a way of launching the year, we celebrated Crazy Mane Day, and students wore crazy hats and wacky hairdos. It was no surprise

that our students admired one another's crazy manes in the spirit of the Mighty Monroe Lion.

This new school year is a learning journey unlike any other we've taken together, but the Monroe teachers and staff members are grateful to be part of this great community that has shown perseverance, compassion and focus at a time when we all needed it the most. Together, we look forward to the joys and challenges of virtual school!



Monrovia High School

845 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2800 • mhs.monroviashools.net



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

One for the Books!

Welcome back to school, Wildcats! The 2020–21 school year is poised to be one for the history books as we begin building relationships and focus on learning on a full virtual platform. Although the way we are hosting school is different this year, with students and teachers connecting with one another on a Zoom call, the why of school remains consistent. The entire Wildcat Staff is committed to providing caring, supportive and engaging learning environments for our students, starting now in a distance-learning environment but with the goal of getting back together on campus when it's safe to do so.



Teachers teaching remotel

Please visit the MUSD Distance Learning Platform at monroviashools.net for more information and strategies for support. Here, you will also find an overview of the Monrovia High School distance-learning plan, with answers to many of the frequently asked questions.

Thank you for your continued support and participation with MHS, and we look forward to seeing you on the next Zoom call or in person with our masks on!



The Wildcat Way for 2020/21

Plymouth Elementary

1300 Boley St., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2400 • plymouth.monroviashools.net



Dr. Greg Gero
Principal

Soaring to Successful Start!

Plymouth began the 2020–21 school year with Wings to Success! The Plymouth team worked tirelessly to prepare for this unprecedented beginning.

Building upon our work in the spring, teachers developed innovative strategies and tools to successfully launch our Distance Learning Program. To ensure that students were prepared, we hosted a virtual Back to School Night, providing video sessions to connect families with teachers before the first day. Teachers followed up with virtual home visits, making sure that we understood the challenges, successes and needs of each Plymouth family.

Our PTA contributed to our successful beginning! Chalk the Walk provided an opportunity to connect our community and build school spirit. Students and families rallied to show their support, drawing inspiring illustrations and encouraging messages around our campus. And our PTA secured a \$5,000 grant to provide students with hands-on learning materials at home.

What an extraordinary start to an unusual year!



Santa Fe *Computer Magnet School*

148 West Duarte Rd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2700 • santafe.monroviashools.net



Dr. Geoff Zamarripa
Principal

Back to School, Virtually

Just one week into the school year, Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School held its annual Back to School Night—remotely. This year, leadership and teachers delivered online presentations that families and students were able to access on demand via ParentSquare.

Teachers created colorful presentations, many featuring their Bitmoji and classroom, to explain their class goals and expectations. Parents are able to save these presentations for guidance and review in the future. Santa Fe will continue to provide high-quality instruction as well as a beautiful array of electives that enhance student engagement and opportunities to explore.

Every Monday, Santa Fe will open distance learning with a special focus on social-emotional learning (SEL) to support the unique demands and challenges placed on students during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a school, we are acutely aware of the need to give students the



opportunity to explore their feelings, understand the world around them, and make sense of what is going on. This special hour on Monday will not only give our Cougar Scholars tools to better equip them for these difficult times but will also facilitate how to handle the workload of school remotely.

Santa Fe is united in its efforts to support our student growth, enhance opportunities to achieve, and continue learning for all. We are the #awesomecougar team!

Wild Rose *School of Creative Arts*

232 Jasmine Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2500 • wildrose.monroviashools.net



Paige Ramos
Principal

Bear News

Wild Rose School of Creative Arts is keeping the tradition alive in a unique way bringing our school together every morning

with video announcements. Each morning our staff travels through cyber space to join our students in their home with fun and exciting news. These announcements include the flag salute, birthdays, fun facts, spotlight of the week, school songs, and star student recognition.



This broadcast is brought to you daily at 8:30 a.m. with Ms. Naugle and our new co-host, Rosita Osita! It's a great way to start the day!