

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Menifee Union School District

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 2021



Bell Mountain Middle School



Hans Christensen Middle School



Menifee Valley Middle School



Harvest Hill STEAM Academy



MUSD Virtual School

Engaging Young Minds for Limitless Futures



MENIFEE

Union School District

Learn ★ Explore ★ Imagine



Menifee Preschool



Callie Kirkpatrick Elementary School



Evans Ranch Elementary School



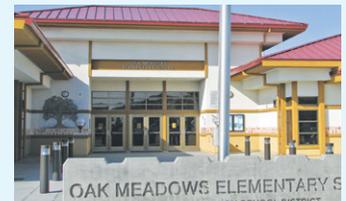
Freedom Crest Elementary School



Herk Bouris Elementary School



Chester W. Morrison Elementary School



Oak Meadows Elementary School



Quail Valley Elementary School



Ridgemoor Elementary School



Southshore Elementary School



Tāawila Elementary School

Superintendent



Dr. Jennifer Root
Superintendent

Welcome back to the 2021-22 school year! It is with great excitement that we move ahead with all children returning physically to school. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to give the greatest of thanks to our classified staff, teachers, management, and families for all that they did during the past year and a half to ensure that our Menifee children continued to learn and grow despite school closures. As we return, we are excited for a new and updated vision and mission statement as well as a new equity statement.

In January 2020, our Board of Trustees made an intentional decision to bring together stakeholders to develop new vision and mission statements for our District. There were four meetings held and over 40 stakeholders, representing parents, teachers, classified staff, management, and community members engaged in an interactive process which led to vision and mission statements that were presented to the Board of Trustees on July 13, 2021 for approval. These vision and mission statements now provide a tangible roadmap through which to guide the future of Menifee Union School District.

“Engaging young minds for limitless futures” is the vision through which we will ensure success for our students. Research says that the children of today will have 5 to 10 different careers throughout their lifetime. It is

important that we future-proof our students by preparing them not only with the necessary academic standards but that we teach them to communicate effectively, solve complex problems, work well with others, have perseverance, and be compassionate.

The newly adopted mission statement for the District is **“To inspire learning, exploration, and imagination.”** This statement intentionally does not connect solely to children as it is the mission of the District to inspire these three things not only in our students but our staff and community as well. When we inspire our staff to learn, explore and imagine, this directly impacts the quality of instruction and support services that our students receive. As our teachers prepared for in person summer enrichment this year, their excitement was evident as they participated in hands-on professional development. This mission statement also emphasizes the importance of our Family Engagement Center. This Center is vital in supporting learning, exploration, and imagination for our parents and caretakers.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to work in collaboration with our community as we “engage young minds for limitless futures.” We look forward to the upcoming year and know that we must begin the year identifying the impacts that school closure has had socially and academically on our students and use engaging instruction to accelerate learning and move our students ahead.

District Information:

Menifee Union School District
29775 Haun Rd., Menifee CA 92586

 @Menifee USD

 Menifee Union School District

 MenifeeUSD

(951) 672-1851

www.menifeeusd.org

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(Area #4)



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(Area #2)

By Jackie Johansen

President, Board of Education Area 4

I am very hopeful for the 2021-2022 school year! My own five kids really want to go to school in person, and I am REALLY excited that it will be a daily option. Armed with a deeper understanding of my children’s abilities, I can better partner with teachers to engage in their learning.

As a K-12 teacher, I have seen students and teachers increase their knowledge of technology. That new knowledge, coupled with increased tech tools in the hands of our students is going to pay dividends for years to come. I am also hopeful that we can use our new technology skills

in ways that will accelerate the students and increase their possibilities, without keeping them in front of a screen all day.

Social time is another bright spot in the upcoming year. All students need to interact with peers. It is my hope that children will reset and rebuild their network of friends. As parents, I hope that we can reach out to each other more and plan interactions outside of school to build relationships among peers.

There is a limitless future ahead of our students; thank you for allowing Menifee Union to be part of it.

City of Menifee

29844 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-6777 • www.cityofmenifee.us



Bill Zimmerman
Mayor

Preparing our Children for an Unimaginable Future

Most of us agree that our children's lives are more important than our own. The sentiment is emphasized when we try to imagine their lifestyle 20 to 30 years from now.

A challenge for today's educators and community leaders is how to prepare them for careers that haven't been invented yet.

The best answer I've heard is to help young people build a proficient foundation for themselves.

Along with academics, foundation components include social skills, teamwork, integrity, ambition, and managing

both success and failure in a professional way. It also includes embracing technology as their best tool to help accomplish business tasks.

Schools provide a majority of these "components for success," but the best local communities offer additional opportunities. These include organized sports leagues, Scouting and 4-H Clubs, after-school youth programs and the many city-run recreation classes that provide a variety of instruction in group settings.

There is real value when a school district, city hall and local service organizations combine efforts to prepare children for their unimaginable future, and I'm glad we are working together.



Mayor Bill Zimmerman interacts with a Menifee Scout Troop.



Menifee's Mayor Bill Zimmerman visits a children's art program at the library.

Menifee Police Department

29714 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/723-1500 • menifeepolice.org



Pat Walsh
Chief

Engagement

On July 1, 2020, the Menifee Police Department took over law enforcement from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Although the roll out was exciting, it was also semi anti-climactic. We started a police department in the midst of a global pandemic. This meant we were unable to get out into our community and build the relationships we wanted, and needed to be successful. Not that we have not been successful, far from it, but success is not just what you do, it is the relationships you build.

As the country slowly opens, we are engaging with our community more and more, and it is fantastic. But there

is a demographic that we truly are excited to engage with, our youth. When we rolled out the schools were closed and the youth were not outside, riding bikes, playing basketball or in our parks. They were indoors staring at a computer screen.

As the new school year approaches, the Menifee Police Department looks forward to engaging with our youth. We stand ready to play basketball, throw the football and have positive interactions.

We also will be patrolling school zones before, during, and after school so that our youth are safe.

On behalf of the men and women of the Menifee Police Department, we cannot wait to meet and protect our Menifee youth.

Riverside County Fire Department

210 West San Jacinto Ave., Perris, CA 92570 • 951/940-6985 • www.rvcfire.org



Kirk Barnett
Fire Chief
City of Menifee

“Fire Safety ON, Accidents Gone”

As we approach the beginning of a new school year, we look forward to having the opportunity to re-engage with Menifee Union School District (MUSD) students in person. In an effort to bring important fire safety education materials to

the classrooms, we have made our “Fire Safety ON, Accidents Gone” video series available on our website (www.rvcfire.org) and YouTube channel (Riverside County Fire).

We are committed to serving the faculty and students of MUSD and want to share a few important safety tips for returning to in person learning; use marked crosswalks when crossing the street, stay on the sidewalk when walking to and from school, wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or scooter, drink plenty of water to stay well hydrated and wear sunscreen when you may be exposed to the sun for a prolonged period of time.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As we are preparing this issue I hope you are enjoying a fun summer with the anticipation of the beginning of a new school year.

Thank you for your positive comments when you emailed your contest entries. The winner is announced on page 16 where you will find a new contest. (All ages may enter.)

Our next issue is scheduled for January 2022.

Educational Services

29775 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-1851 • www.menifeeusd.org



Dr. Kimberly Ann Huesing
Assistant
Superintendent

A New Vision Statement

The Menifee Union School District began the journey of refreshing the District’s vision statement in January of 2020. Undaunted by the challenges of COVID-19, the committee consisting of over

40 instructional and support staff, administrators, community leaders, parents, and all MUSD board members met online until March of 2021 to develop the aspiration the District envisions for the future.

The Educational Services department will provide resources and programs to school sites so that students are engaged, they are achieving social emotional and academic success, and they are enabled to have limitless futures. Through Universal Design professional learning, supports will be developed throughout the district to gain and sustain student interest, build comprehension and collaboration skills, and celebrate learning through traditional and innovative means. The school year will begin with a keynote speaker on Universal Design on August 9th and the theme will be carried through District training all year.



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Covering the MENIFEE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193
CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Emily Ung
COPY EDITORS:
Kate Karp, Anna Zappia
SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder
Netragrednik by Neta Madison

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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Business Services

29775 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-1851 • www.menifeeusd.org



Marc Bommarito
Assistant
Superintendent

Facilities Department

The Menifee Union School District Facilities Department is in high gear as we continue to develop and build new schools and plan and execute modernizations on existing sites. The continuous growth in the City of Menifee and surrounding areas bring new families and students to our District, and the Facilities Department is always planning for future development. In 2016 the community passed Measure Q, a \$135 million bond, which has allowed the District to accelerate projects and keep up with the growth in the community. The Facilities Department is also responsible for overseeing all Community Facility Districts (CFDs) in the MUSD boundaries bringing in different funding sources to build and improve our facilities. More extensive construction projects include the Menifee Valley Middle School Reconstruction (photo attached), Chester Morrison Kindergarten, and Middle School #4. We are also in the design phases for Elementary School #15, and Full Day Kindergarten and TK classroom additions.



SPED

29775 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-1851 • www.menifeeusd.org



Dr. Julie Hong
Executive Director
of Special
Education

Ability Awareness Event

The Special Education Department foresees limitless potential and opportunities for our students in the coming school year! We have been actively planning with our SEPAC Executive

Board on the importance of enhancing community engagement and participation. In partnership with the SEPAC and the MUSD Special Education Department, we are looking forward to hosting the “Ability Awareness” event in April of 2022, featuring a partnership with the Special Olympics! We are looking forward to a strong partnership with our SEPAC community to bring together events to highlight our student’s potential and encourage limitless opportunities!

In addition, to enhance our specialized programs to better meet the needs of our students, in the Fall of 2021, we will add Bridge and RISE programs. Our goal in Special



Education, is to engage our students with Evidence-Based, Universally Designed Specialized Programs that meet students’ academic, sensory, social-emotional, and behavioral needs.

Next, parent partnership is an essential ingredient to student success. In the upcoming year, we encourage our families to join and

attend monthly SEPAC meetings to learn about the IEP process and how you can become knowledgeable partners in developing your child’s educational plan. Please join us for our first meeting on August 12, 2021 at the Family Engagement Center or join virtually. We will be sharing flyers during the first week of school.

Lastly, Summer Enrichment and ESY are in their second session. Students are engaged and are learning Math, Science, and Literature. I have been able to witness joy, engagement, and enthusiasm from our teachers and students alike. It has been a magical summer event for our students to interact with each other and teachers in person!

Family Engagement Center

29775 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-1851 • www.menifeeusd.org



Claudia Burt
Community
Liaison

Partnerships and Relationships

The FEC is all about partnerships and relationships. Through the year we provide meaningful workshops for the MUSD families to support their children's education and well-being. One of the MUSD goals is to expand our services with the addition of 5 more community liaisons. We will have the opportunity to serve the community

in a more comprehensive way, which allows us to make more connections with families and establish relationships that ultimately will benefit the students. This expansion will help us to provide more classes and services at different locations to reach out to more families. We are proud to report that the Family Engagement Center offered approximately 156 classes, workshops, and meetings during 2020-2021 school year. We had 457 parents attend.

We were able to partner with different organizations and the MUSD staff to be able to offer workshops on different topics. We offered English as a Second Language, Positive Parenting Program, Teen Triple P, and Nurturing Parenting classes, The Incredible Years & Pro-Social Skills Groups, Parent Power, Drug Awareness, and Social Media



and online behavior workshops, Bullying and Cyberbullying webinars, and the counselors provided the workshops "Learning from Home", "Managing Strong Emotions" and "Positive Discipline." This past semester the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group suggested the idea of creating a Spanish Club and the DELAC parents created a Book Club. We will continue engaging parents and children to learn and grow because the power of knowledge is limitless.

Nutrition Services

29775 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-1851 • www.menifeeusd.org



Adriana Lopez,
MS, RD, SNS
Director

School Meals

Good nutrition and learning go hand in hand. The Nutrition Services Department at Menifee Union School District is made up of a team of food and nutrition professionals committed to supporting student

learning by providing healthy and well-balanced meals to Menifee USD students. For the 2021-2022 school year, all students enrolled at Menifee USD will have access to a complimentary breakfast and lunch on a daily basis! We encourage you to visit www.menifeeschoolmeals.com for more information regarding our school meal program.



Personnel / Risk Management

29775 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-1851 • www.menifeeusd.org



Kara McGee, CSR
Director
Risk Management

Many Responsibilities

The primary focus in risk management has been COVID-19. There are many responsibilities the District must comply with, from interpreting new regulatory health and safety information, updating required policies, procedures and plans to tracking and tracing all COVID-19 cases related to employees and students. Ensuring the District is in compliance with stringent cleaning and disinfectant protocols,

providing support and communications to encourage the use of increased handwashing and respiratory etiquette and being a resource for employees and students' parents as far as COVID resources goes. We look forward when the pace of school stabilizes yet we remain vigilant and prepared to what may be ahead.

The department of risk management continues to work towards ensuring Menifee Union is a safe place to learn and work. From creating emergency procedures, designing and implementing reporting procedures for student injuries and ensuring our District properties are safe for students to learn, grow and play; in risk management we mitigate and address opportunities that need correction. Risk management protects the human, financial, physical and reputational assets.

Student Success Services

29775 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-1851 • www.menifeeusd.org



Kenya Edison
Director

Equitable School Communities

Ensuring each student has equal access to quality teaching and meaningful learning requires a commitment to provide each student what is necessary for their individual academic, behavioral, and social emotional success. This requires applying the lens of equity to everything we do.

Creating and sustaining equitable school communities allows us to reimagine our system of support in the context of today's realities. Additionally, we must be intentionally responsive to each student's abilities and needs, considering age, development, and life experiences. Equitable school communities consistently prioritize actions to not merely address, but instead to eliminate the access, opportunity and achievement gaps. Inequitable systems persistently and negatively impact all stakeholders. Equity work is a heavy lift, but everyone is better off because of it.

Technology

29775 Haun Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-1851 • www.menifeeusd.org



Dr. John Morgan
Director

Supporting Innovators

The technology department continues to support Innovators in Menifee USD. An Innovator is a person who introduces new methods, ideas, or processes. One who takes risks to improve the learning and learning environment of them and those around them. The technology department is working to support those who create an amazing learning environment for our students and provide the necessary tools for our students.

This support requires work behind the scenes. Technicians are working to repair devices once checked out to students during the school year. Following the hybrid return to school, staff is preparing to shift the Google Meet microphone and speaker setup to a voice amplification system for every classroom. Technology is training our innovative staff to move to Gmail and Google Calendar to further the communication and collaboration with students. Security and connectivity is being increased with firewall and network upgrades.



The technology department is increasing on-site support for our innovators. Additional Technology Aides will be available for more immediate site support at each of the sites in the district. Site staff will have technology issues addressed more quickly. This will have a direct impact on the learning experience for students and teachers in our schools. Teachers trying new approaches to teaching and learning will have support in their building.

These changes and innovations provide the connected space for students to learn in a protected digital environment. Though the majority of the work in technology is on the devices and district network, the focus is supporting our innovators by creating a digital space to engage students, inspire learning, exploration, and imagination.

Menifee *Preschool*

26350 La Piedra Rd., Menifee, CA 92584 • 951/672-6478 • www.menifeeusd.org/pre



Patricia Sosa-Alaniz
Administrator

Engaging Preschool Minds for Limitless Future

As Menifee Union Elementary School District says goodbye to the pandemic and 2020- 2021 school year, Menifee preschool is preparing and planning for a new beginning and safe return to an exciting 2021- 2022 school year. Not only are we planning for a new preschool school year, we are also planning for a two year project that will include an Inclusive Early Education

experience that will provide our young minds the opportunity to learn, think, and grow together in inclusive classrooms. These inclusion classrooms will serve typically developing children alongside children with special needs, as well as, provide appropriate accommodation and structured support, and allow for active participation for all children in the program. In addition to expanding our inclusive programs, our playground will also experience a new makeover for all preschoolers to enjoy with adapted equipment. These new changes could not be possible without the partnership of the Riverside County Department of Education Early Education Division and The California Department of Education Menifee Preschool.

These new and exciting changes perfectly align with the District’s new mission statement of “Engaging Young Minds for a Limitless Future”. So let’s begin the new preschool year with a focus to ensure that all our students will have equal access to a high, quality inclusive learning experience where our focus will be to prepare them for a limitless future.



Callie Kirkpatrick *Elementary*

28800 Reviere Dr., Menifee, CA 92584 • 951/672-6420 • www.menifeeusd.org/cke



Julie Makapugay
Principal

Student Council

Callie Kirkpatrick Elementary School is home to the CKE Student Council. Our student council consists of four executive officers and ten student council representatives. The vision of the CKE Student Council is: Creating a positive school culture that showcases student voice. Our student council officers and representatives are innovative,

creating new programs to address student needs and interests. A key value of the CKE Student Council is community service (which is required by the semester) and service projects. During the pandemic, our CKE Student Council created a virtual peer mentoring program called “Callie Mentors” and developed an environmental committee called “Not Mean, Just Green,” to provide education about recycling, reusing, and reducing waste. This committee also sponsored three beautification days to clean up the school campus before moving onto summer break. Events and activities are planned by the student council and open to the student body for participation. We are #CallieStrong!



Chester W. Morrison *Elementary*

30250 Bradley Rd., Menifee, CA 92584 • 951/679-7076 • www.menifeeUSD.org/cwm



Maria-Elena Talamantes
Principal

Family Nights

At Chester W. Morrison (CWM), we strive to continuously engage our young learners in educational activities that extend beyond the classroom. We want to instill the love of learning within the entire family because we believe our students' futures are limitless when we partner with our families.

CWM staff remained committed to ensuring we continued our traditional Family Nights despite Distance Learning.

Our Family Nights range from literacy, math, and science to art. These nights are planned to motivate students into exploring and connecting the classroom to their outside world.

Our most recent Virtual Family Night had a science focus. It involved students partnering with family members to create a Brushtronic Bug! CWM noon-supervisors assembled the kits for families to pick-up before the event.

Mrs. Stillman led our kindergarten-second grade scientists, and Mrs. Belle led our third-fifth grade scientists through the steps to build their very own Brushtronic Bugs!



Mrs. Stillman, fifth grade CWM teacher, and scientist families enjoy watching their Brushtronic bugs light up and spin around!

Evans Ranch *Elementary*

30465 Evans Rd., Menifee, CA 92584 • 951/246-7690 • www.menifeeUSD.org/ere



Mike Reyes
Principal

Rigorous Activities

At Evans Ranch Elementary School students participate in rigorous activities that maintain the school goals for engaging academic achievement that lead to increased performance in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The focus on these curricular areas developed the skills necessary for students to reach competence in subjects like History and Science. Our teachers

continued to deliver highly engaging lessons virtually and in the hybrid model through the pandemic. The on-going effort to increase academic achievement has produced positive results in the academic data this year. Students at The Ranch adapted well to online learning and seamlessly transitioned to a hybrid model of learning. Hands-on activities, virtually and in person, had a great impact in mathematics and science. Here you see one of our kindergarten students working in a culminating science lesson about continents, tectonic plates, and layers of the earth.



Freedom Crest *Elementary*

29282 Menifee Rd., Menifee, CA 92584 • 951/679-5285 • www.menifeeusd.org/fce



Engaging Young Minds for a Limitless Future

Eli Orr
Principal

At Freedom Crest Elementary School, we were able to end the year celebrating student successes

with several students earning honor roll, principals list, academic achievement medals, and presidential awards despite the barriers brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, students who showed stretch growth in their I-Ready end of the year assessment also received an award for their progress. These among other successes this year display student resilience and the FCE staff's tireless commitment to student engagement in learning.



Students in kindergarten and fifth grade participated in separate drive through promotion activities to celebrate promoting to 1st grade and 6th grade. The activities were a joyous reminder to students, staff, and families of the limitless future that lies ahead for our FCE kids!

Herk Bouris *Elementary*

34257 Kalanchoe Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA 92532 • 951/244-7657 • www.menifeeusd.org/hbe



Implementing Student Ideas

Stephanie Acosta
Principal

One of the most critical components necessary to engage young minds is to provide students with the opportunity to have choice in the way they learn and participate. At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, 4th and 5th grade students were asked, "What could we do to make Herk Bouris Elementary even better? What would make you even more excited to come to

school and learn?" Many ideas from students were shared, from zip lines to trampolines, and while not all of them are possible to implement, from these discussions we have some exciting plans going forward. Their ideas were a nice reminder that before any academic learning can take place, students first need to have their social emotional needs met first, and this is particularly true after a year of school closures and distance learning. Students want to feel safe,

connected, and know that they are going to have fun while they are learning.

Based on these suggestions, HBE will be establishing student committees to welcome new students, select books for school-wide read-alouds and book clubs, and create announcements and news articles. Additionally, students requested a supportive place at school to go when they are lonely and need help making a friend, as well as the opportunity to play organized sports and practice good sportsmanship with each other. Another student requested we continue to provide snacks to everyone each day free of charge to make sure no child is hungry - a request we are happy to report will continue through access to free breakfast and lunches for all children.

By truly listening and working to implement ideas students know will help them stay connected to learning, we can truly say we are doing our best to keep their minds engaged and help them realize the endless opportunities.

Oak Meadows *Elementary*

28600 Poinsettia St., Murrieta, CA 92563 • 951/246-4210 • www.menifeeusd.org/ome



Jennifer Baker
Principal

Engaging Young Minds for a Limitless Future

At Oak Meadows Elementary, we are engaging young minds for a limitless future through multi-tiered systems of support and multidimensional learning. We are preparing our students for jobs of the future in an ever changing, global marketplace. Therefore, we must empower our students to lead their learning by asking great questions, conducting

background research, working collaboratively to locate solutions, and removing barriers or obstacles. Students in TK-5 practice the fundamental skills of reading, writing, calculating and problem solving through a variety of meaningful projects that employ their voice and choice such as:

- Learning new words and concepts through art, song and dance
- Exploring the attributes of shapes through construction
- Developing reading fluency through partner plays and poetry
- Writing graphic novels to retell historical events such as the California Gold Rush, or writing a fractured fairy tale to learn about the elements of fiction

- Presenting a wax museum to learn from the lives of historical heroes
 - Building sleds and ramps to discover the relationship between friction, speed, and engineering
 - Coding safe pathways for robots
 - Designing and building miniature treehouses, leprechaun traps and food trucks
 - Crafting an ancestor doll to represent cultural heritage
 - Skyping with biologists, dog trainers, and authors to learn more about their research, business and craft
 - Planning and budgeting a family summer vacation
- Teachers and staff provide supports to scaffold student learning and expression as necessary. It is our goal to ensure that each child is engaged daily in the skills of constructing knowledge collaboratively with their peers and pushing past barriers to prepare for their limitless future. Change is a constant and our students must be empowered with a growth mindset to benefit from change.

Please visit our website: <https://www.menifeeusd.org/ome>
Instagram: hunter.hawk.ome
Twitter: OmeMusd
Facebook: Oak Meadows Elementary

Quail Valley *Elementary*

23757 Canyon Heights Dr., Menifee, CA 92587 • 951/244-1937 • www.menifeeusd.org/qve

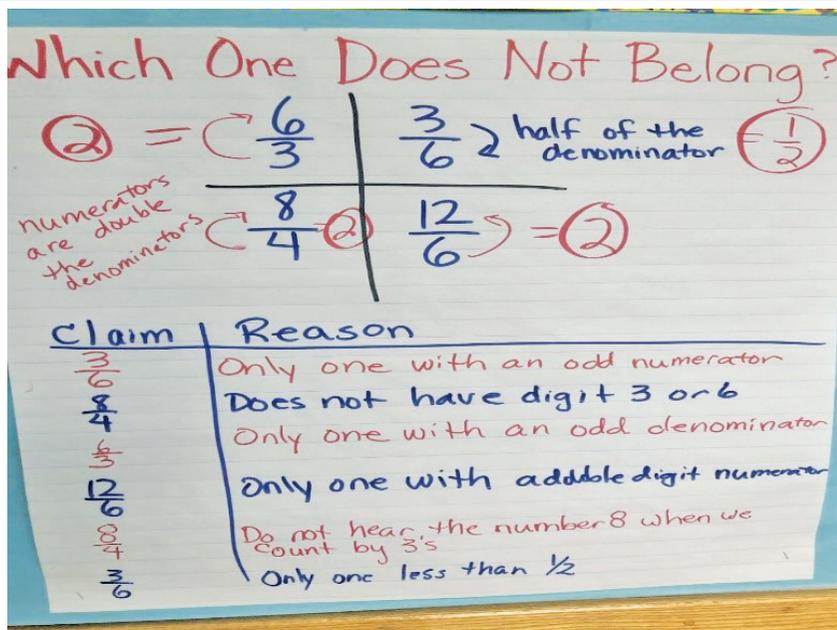


Lily Pena
Principal

Learning and Growing

Wow! What a year! Even with the unexpected Covid-19 pandemic, our Quail Valley Elementary School scholars, parents, teachers and staff's resilience and perseverance was evident, each and every day. Students were able to learn and grow and were able to show

what they know in ways that even I could not imagine. Our brains grew so much this year, learning how to use technology in amazing ways. A positive math culture came alive as Hybrid A and B came onto campus. Artifacts of Cognitively Guided Instruction strategies such as How Many Ways, Which One Doesn't Belong, and Choral Counting, were only some ways in which students were able to practice their math fluency. In addition to all of the learning that took place both virtually and in the classroom, I am so proud of the partnerships that have developed with our families and all the learning that took place, together. Dominoes, Dice and Card games were



distributed to families to allow for at-home fun and practice of math fluency. Quail Valley Elementary School has many plans for the 2021-22 school year, and we look forward to our continued success and partnerships.

Ridgemoor *Elementary*

25455 Ridgemoor Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/672-6450 • www.menifeeUSD.org/res



Mike Walsh
Principal

4th Grade California Character Day

At Ridgemoor Elementary School we take the curriculum to the next level and make learning engaging and fun. Rather than just read about events and people of the past, students are taught to bring them to life. One example of this is our 4th Grade California Character Day.

The fourth grade team organized this day to teach students about important figures in California history. They were motivated to learn the most interesting facts about the historical figure knowing that on California Characters Day they would get to become that individual. Our fourth grade students learned research skills, public speaking, and performing arts as they were also having fun. Students from other grade levels benefited from learning about history, looking forward to what they'll get to do in fourth grade, and watching a performing art. Ridgemoor teachers and staff make learning fun, engaging, and adjust during challenging times to reach each of our students!



Southshore *Elementary*

30975 Southshore Dr., Menifee, CA 92584 • 951/672-0013 • www.menifeeUSD.org/SSE



Bridget Heeren
Principal

Guided Reading Book Room

Oprah Winfrey once said, "Reading is a way for me to expand my mind, open my eyes, and fill up my heart." Being a passionate and avid reader is important to us here at Southshore. This year, we teamed up with our Amazing P.T.A. so that we can begin the process of building a Guided Reading book room for all of our teachers to access in order to support our young readers. We know

how important it is for our students to have a variety of titles to read, both in informational text, as well as fictional text. Starting next year, our focus will be ensuring that all of our first and second grade students have a book that they can take home each night in order to practice their comprehension and word fluency in order to support their

learning process. We are committed to engaging all of our students with high interest texts that captivates our minds and imagination so that we continue to crave more and more books.

Our goal is to have all students reading at an independent reading level at each grade level so that they can access their standards with ease and fidelity. We know that the more access students have to a variety of styles of books, the more their vocabulary is expanded and the better they do as learners. Our new bookroom will allow for our teachers to help each student learn how to read a variety of texts with understanding and fluency at their individual reading level. We want to make sure that each child's instructional needs are met, and by using the leveled readers that the bookroom will provide, each child will be able to grow as a reader at their own pace. Thank you to all that have made this possible!

Táawila *Elementary*

30344 Stage Coach Rd., Menifee, CA 92586 • 951/723-3001 • www.menifeeUSD.org/tes



Daphne Donoho
Principal

Parachute System

As we Engage Young Minds for a Limitless Future, TES has some budding scientists in the making!

Fifth grade students at

Táawila Elementary School have learned about Earth's gravity and how it affects all things around the world. As a culminating project the students used what they learned about gravity, parachute systems, and the fragility of eggs. They were tasked with the assignment to create a parachute system that would safely land an egg from different heights. Using the Engineering Design Process students created a system, tested the system, and then re-designed and retested their parachutes.



Courtney Medina

Harvest Hill *STEAM Academy*

31600 Pat Rd., Winchester, CA 92596 • 951/325-6000 • www.menifeeUSD.org/hhsa



Phil Suttner
Principal

Pivot and Transition

Harvest Hill STEAM Academy, home of the Innovators, is poised for a successful return to school for the 2021-22 school year. We will have many new faces on campus, including a new Lead Innovator (principal). I am extremely proud and excited to carry on the legacy left by Brian Martes. Mr. Martes opened the school in 2016 and grew it from a K-5 school to a TK-8 school with current enrollment of just over 1,000 students. It is evident that the commitment to STEAM education, core values, and a positive campus climate are all in place and we will roll on full "steam" ahead.

Among the other exciting changes on our campus is the installation of the Garner Holt Lab. This high tech lab is also known as an "AniMaker Space", as it will facilitate the design and implementation of lessons to build audio

animatronic robots. If you've been to any amusement park and seen the animated robots (e.g. Disneyland), you have seen examples of Garner Holt's work. The AniMaker space will be equipped with 3D printers, laser cutters, vacuum formers, CNC milling machines, sewing machines, airbrushes, a variety of software applications and advanced animatronics. Our plan is to engage students in real-world, career focused, hands on science, technology, engineering, arts and math with a focus on making things move.

Yet another transition we will experience in August is the official full scale opening of our new middle school building. It is a two-story architectural beauty, and staff and students will certainly reap the rewards of this amazing new facility.

Our goal for the upcoming year is to continue to embrace our core values of grit, empathy, accountability, respect and service (GEARS), and to engage young minds for a limitless future.

MUSD Virtual School

27625 Sherman Rd. Menifee CA 92585 • 951/679-8356 • www.menifeeUSD.org



Jenny Thomas
Interim Principal

New Virtual School

On behalf of our excited group of Virtual Educators, I would like to introduce you to the Menifee Virtual School! We are proud to serve the students and families who chose online learning for their education, continuing our district's commitment to engage young minds for a limitless future!

The Menifee Virtual School is an online school, serving students in grades K-8 in the Menifee Union School District. Students in the virtual school will be taught by highly qualified Menifee USD teachers. There will be both synchronous (Google Meet) learning, and asynchronous (independent assignments) learning. Students may learn and participate from their home location, and there will be optional opportunities

for students to come on the school campus for in-person enrichment and support.

The Menifee Virtual School was created to meet the needs of students and families who prefer the online learning style, need a more flexible schedule, or have health concerns that would benefit from distance learning.

Students in the Virtual School will have access to all of the adopted curriculum and supplemental materials the Menifee Union School District provides including textbooks, printed materials, hands-on manipulative materials, Chromebooks, and materials necessary to complete learning activities. Our students will receive standards-based instruction and participate in State and local assessments. Students will be served by a school library, which will provide both online and physical books available for checkout.

We are excited to start this journey. See you online!

Bell Mountain *Middle School*

28525 La Piedra Rd., Menifee, CA 92584 • 951/301-8496 • www.menifeeUSD.org/bmms



Dr. Regina Zurbano
Principal

Virtual Field Trips

Bell Mountain welcomed back students to campus for hybrid, in-person instruction after Spring Break! The hustle & bustle of our Bobcats throughout campus helped BMMS roar back to life! New technology allowed our staff to teach simultaneously to students both in class and at home. All the while, to stay connected with our families from a distance, we continued distribution of

multi-day meal kits and relocated our materials distribution loop to the front of the school. We remained connected through our weekly Booster Blasts, recognizing the efforts of our students & teachers. Our students participated in virtual field trips to the Seattle Aquarium (6th), Garner Holt Productions (7th), and the Museum of Tolerance (8th)! Our Drive-Thru 8th Grade Promotion had special guests - Liberty HS staff gave out swag to welcome future LHS Bison to high school! We look forward to a full return to school this August for the 2021-22 school year!



Hans Christensen *Middle School*

27625 Sherman Rd., Menifee, CA 92585 • 951/679-8356
www.menifeeusd.org/HCMS



Kristina Lyman
Principal

WEB Wednesday

We are extremely proud of our students and staff for all their efforts during the 2020-2021 school year. This was a year like no other and our families, students, and staff stepped up to make sure student learning and well-being continued. Equity and access is a priority at HCMS as we work diligently to meet the unique needs of each student. We strive to connect each student to school through clubs, activities, academic supports, and positive relationships. Students were engaged in a variety of activities this past year through WEB Wednesday, ASB Student Lounge, Math Olympiads, Yearbook, and E-Sports. We look forward to our students returning to campus in August.



Our WEB student Sierra Laban is showing some kindness and encouragement as students enter campus.

Menifee Valley *Middle School*

26255 Garbani Rd., Menifee, CA 92584 • 951/672-6400
www.menifeeusd.org/MVMS



Melinda Conde
Principal

Persevering this Storm of a Year!

Many of our Menifee Valley Middle School students, staff, and families have been greatly affected by the school closures during this pandemic. Thankfully, when there is rain there is sure to be a rainbow. MVMS staff are so proud of our students who have persevered through this storm of a year! We ended the school year with 42% of our students earning Honor Roll (3.5-3.99 GPA) and/or Principal's List (4.0 GPA) awards. Our Honor Roll and Principal's List awardees not only survived school during a pandemic, they worked hard to rise above adversity in unprecedented times. Additionally, over 70% of our student body earned at least a 2.0 GPA! We celebrated our 8th grade students who earned Honor Roll and/or Principal's List with a virtual ceremony as we sent them off to high school. We will celebrate our 6th and 7th grade awardees during the 1st semester of the 21/22 school year.



It is evident, a pandemic will not stop our amazing Eagles from persevering and we are so grateful to have a wonderful staff leading the way to success!

Tyson's Book Review



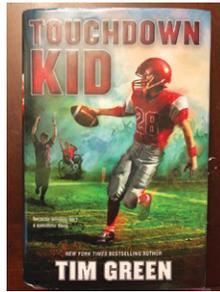
Tyson

Never Give Up

Touchdown Kid by Tim Green

Cory is an awesome football player from the Westside. He is 11 years old and is just moving into middle school, along with his friend, Liam. A

well-known coach from HBS, an elite junior high school, is giving a scholarship to a player he thinks is good enough to play football there. If Cory gets it, he will get to live in a nice neighborhood with a host family in a cozy home, and play football, his passion. His best friend's brother isn't the nicest guy and pulls him into trouble. If he is late, he won't play. What will he do? This is his dream. Find out more about this crazy adventure and read *Touchdown Kid*. This book is great and pulls me in. I can relate a lot to this book and if you're an athlete, you'll love it. I'm not much of a bookworm and I rate it 5 out of 5 stars!



Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to play with his dog and meeting new neighborhood friends!

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Favorite Tree House Adventure

Monday with a Mad Genius by Mary

Pope Osborne is the 10th book in the series Magic Tree House. It is about two siblings of Frog Creek, Pennsylvania (Jack and Annie) who go back in time by the magic tree house. Their mission is to help a magician named Merlin of Camelot find the secret of happiness. During the journey, the siblings travel to Florence, Italy and meet Leonardo DaVinci in the 1500s. Jack and Annie watch DaVinci fly the Great Bird and finish the Mona Lisa painting.

This was a fun book to read. The story is full of excitement and interesting information. I learned about Mona Lisa and Leonardo DaVinci. Reading that DaVinci was also an inventor, architect, stage and costume designer, horseman, chef, geologist, and botanist was fascinating. My favorite parts are when Jack and Annie figured out the secret of happiness and that DaVinci was also a horseman. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves adventures.



Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

CAMPING—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 Menifee in the subject line.

MAP	FOOD
BOOTS	SNACK
JACKETS	BEDROLL
COMPASS	MATCHES
GPS	FLASHLIGHT
BACKPACK	FLARES
THERMOS	CELLPHONE
KNIFE	CAMERA
TENT	BUGSPRAY
BLANKET	COT
WATER	

Entries must be received by September 15, 2021
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

X	H	C	Z	T	O	H	S	B	T	C	T	O	O
R	W	V	C	E	L	L	P	H	O	N	E	A	K
U	D	Y	A	R	P	S	G	U	B	O	N	O	C
D	C	L	J	U	L	I	T	L	A	L	T	C	K
G	E	C	U	R	L	F	B	E	C	E	O	S	J
H	H	E	T	H	O	S	G	N	K	M	C	P	P
Y	A	S	S	O	R	P	N	N	P	C	F	T	F
N	S	A	D	J	D	Z	A	A	A	Z	A	Y	N
M	L	S	C	C	E	L	S	M	C	C	G	J	E
F	Z	J	O	F	B	S	E	O	K	K	M	L	E
D	G	B	I	N	C	R	R	B	M	Y	P	N	X
M	Q	N	S	O	A	W	A	T	E	R	M	J	I
Y	K	V	T	R	B	U	L	T	X	U	E	D	T
W	J	W	O	P	W	M	F	V	F	T	U	H	C
K	T	H	Q	L	A	E	E	X	M	Q	V	T	T

Congratulations to Caiden
Winner of our January Word Search Contest!