

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Hawthorne School District



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Maintaining the Focus

Our first strategic plan was developed a little over seven years ago. Since that time we met many of the goals we outlined in our original document and have updated the plan to continue our purposeful service to the students, staff and community. I think it is important to maintain this focus and to revisit the document in this arena annually. You will see this plan posted throughout all of our schools and facilities. I appreciate this opportunity to share it with you once again.



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent



Manteniendo el enfoque

Nuestro primer plan estratégico se desarrolló hace poco más de siete años. Desde ese momento cumplimos con muchas de las metas que describimos en nuestro documento original y hemos actualizado el plan para continuar nuestro servicio resuelto a los estudiantes, el personal y la comunidad. Creo que es importante mantener este enfoque y volver a revisar el documento en este ámbito anualmente. Verá este plan publicado en todas nuestras escuelas e instalaciones. Agradezco esta oportunidad de compartirlo con ustedes una vez más.

Please See Strategic Plan • Pages 4 & 5

Board of Trustees



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Hawthorne School District Preschool



**Every child deserves a chance to succeed!
¡Cada niño merece la oportunidad de triunfar!**

Preschool Program

HSD Preschools offer early childhood educational programs for children who are three and four-years old. Families must meet State income requirements.

Programa de Preescolar

Las Escuelas Preescolares de HSD ofrecen programas educativos de primera infancia para niños de tres y cuatro años de edad. Las familias deben cumplir con los requisitos de ingresos del Estado.



Reina Robledo
Principal

Nutrition and Wellness

At our preschools, we focus on shaping the overall development of each child. We take a look at students' learning, social development, as well as their nutrition and wellness. We encourage our preschool staff to embrace their roles as guiding lights for preschoolers and families by teaching ways to incorporate healthy food and exercise every day. We hope you will play a role in reinforcing these themes at home because as parents, you are your child's first and most important teacher in life.

Nutrición y Bienestar

En nuestros preescolares, nos enfocamos en formar el desarrollo completo de cada niño. Observamos el aprendizaje de los estudiantes, el desarrollo social, así como su nutrición y bienestar. Animamos a nuestro personal del preescolar a adoptar su papel de guía de luz para niños en edad preescolar y las familias mediante la enseñanza de formas de incorporar alimentos saludables y hacer ejercicio todos los días. Esperamos que usted juegue un papel en reforzar estos aspectos en casa, porque como padre, usted es el primer maestro y el más importante en la vida de su hijo.



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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Superintendent Dr. Morgan begins this issue with "Maintaining the Focus." By now students are settled into their routines and focused on academics.

In this issue, you will meet new staff members, read about the importance of parent involvement and much more.

Thank you for your nice comments when you email your contests entries. Be sure to enter the Word Search on page 12.

Our next issue is January 9. Until then Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays!



Free College Classes for South Bay High School Graduates!

Enrollment fees for the first year will be paid for full-time students who are enrolled in the El Camino College **SOUTH BAY PROMISE**.

To be eligible, in-district high school students must complete the Steps to Enrollment and complete a South Bay Promise form by **April 30, 2019**.

SOUTH BAY PROMISE students receive priority registration, access to in-demand English and math courses, and additional support to connect with student success programs and services.



El Camino College

For more information, go online:
www.elcamino.edu/southbaypromise

Strategic Plan



2016 - 2021

Mission Statement

To maximize each student's potential to achieve educational excellence.

Vision Statement

A diverse community of lifelong learners who excel and positively contribute to an advancing global society.

Core Values

We believe...

- Students are the focus of all decisions.
- All students, parents, staff and community members are empowered, supported and held accountable for their role in the educational process.
- A personal commitment to excellence is expected of all students, parents, staff and community members.
- A safe, innovative and supportive learning environment is maintained where resources are allocated to support social-emotional well-being, student learning, technology and collaboration.
- Local businesses, private and public agencies and the entire community are integral partners in the educational process.
- All individuals are valued and treated with dignity, courtesy and respect.

Student Achievement

All students will meet or exceed grade level standards.

- Use research-based instructional strategies, materials and technology to engage, support and challenge all students for academic success.
- Provide consistent and timely communication with students and families regarding student progress.
- Encourage, support and recognize students for academic growth, success, citizenship and attendance.
- Engage parents in activities that will empower them to assist their children with identified needs.

Educational Environment

Provide a safe and healthy learning and working environment to maximize student learning.

- Further implement the Facilities Master Plan to ensure a safe and well-maintained physical environment.
- Refine and implement the Technology Master Plan to support innovation.
- Work with community partners in developing and implementing plans for emergency preparedness, health and safety.

Fiscal Responsibility

Prioritize the District and site budgets to meet the needs of students while maintaining fiscal solvency.

- Efficiently allocate resources (i.e. facilities, equipment, supplies, staff, etc.) to support student learning.
- Conduct periodic budget review workshops with staff, labor organizations, community and the School Board.
- Continually monitor all district staffing levels, enrollment, revenues and expenditures.
- Ensure alignment with local, state and federal spending plans, minimize deficit spending and maintain the legally-required reserves.

District Culture

Students, families, staff and community will continue to maintain respect, trust, integrity and a sense of belonging.

- All stakeholders will continue to be respected, valued and treated as integral partners in the organization.
- Build trust through ongoing collaborative relationships with positive interactions and behaviors.
- Foster a climate where open communication and innovation are valued, encouraged and supported.

Parent and Family Involvement

The District and schools will maintain an atmosphere where families are supported, valued, engaged and respected.

- Expand utilization of parent centers at all school sites for increased parent involvement.
- Effectively utilize school and district websites, social media and other forms of two-way communication.
- Foster a stronger home-school connection through professional development and family outreach.

Community Outreach

The Hawthorne School District community will continue to strengthen existing partnerships while establishing new relationships.

- Promote our strengths through communication and participation in local events to recruit and retain students and partnerships.
- Embrace the community by maintaining an open-door policy to foster trust and confidence in the District.
- Empower parent representatives to promote district accomplishments throughout the community.

Plan Estratégico



2016 - 2021

Misión

Incrementar el máximo potencial de cada estudiante para lograr una excelencia educativa.

Visión

Una comunidad diversa con individuos que practican el aprendizaje continuo y contribuyen al desarrollo de una sociedad global.

Valores Fundamentales

Creemos que...

- Los estudiantes son el enfoque de todas las decisiones.
- Estudiantes, padres, personal y miembros de la comunidad son apoyados, apoderados y considerados responsables del papel que juegan en el proceso educativo.
- Se espera un compromiso personal hacia la excelencia educativa de todos los estudiantes, padres, empleados y miembros de la comunidad.
- Se mantiene un ambiente educativo de apoyo, seguro e innovador en donde se asignan recursos para apoyar el bienestar social-emocional, aprendizaje del estudiante, tecnología y colaboración.
- Negocios locales, agencias privadas y públicas, y la comunidad entera son parte integral en el proceso educativo.
- Todos los individuos son valorados y tratados con dignidad, cortesía y respeto.

Logros del Estudiante

Todos los estudiantes cumplirán o excederán las normas del nivel de grado.

- Usar estrategias de enseñanza basadas en la investigación, materiales y tecnología para involucrar, apoyar y retar a todos los estudiantes para el éxito académico.
- Proveer comunicación consistente, de manera oportuna, a estudiantes y familias sobre el progreso del estudiante.
- Alentar, apoyar y reconocer a los estudiantes por el crecimiento académico, éxito, conducta cívica y asistencia a clases.
- Involucrar a los padres en actividades que los capaciten para asistir a sus hijos con las necesidades identificadas.

Ambiente Educativo

Proveer un ambiente de trabajo seguro y saludable para maximizar el aprendizaje del estudiante.

- Avanzar la implementación del Plan Maestro de las instalaciones para asegurar un ambiente físico seguro y con un mantenimiento apropiado.
- Perfeccionar e implementar el Plan Maestro de Tecnología para apoyar la innovación.
- Trabajar con representantes de la comunidad para desarrollar e implementar planes de preparación para emergencias, salud y seguridad.

Responsabilidad Fiscal

Priorizar los presupuestos del Distrito y de las escuelas para cumplir con las necesidades de los estudiantes asegurando solvencia económica.

- Asignar recursos de manera eficiente (planteles escolares, equipo, materiales, etc.) para apoyar el aprendizaje del estudiante.
- Llevar a cabo talleres de revisión de presupuesto periódicamente con el personal, sindicatos laborales, comunidad y la Mesa Directiva.
- Monitorear continuamente los niveles de dotación de personal del distrito, inscripción, ingresos y gastos.
- Asegurar el alineamiento con los planes de gasto local, estatal y federal, reducir al mínimo el gasto deficitario y mantener las reservas requeridas legalmente.

Cultura del Distrito

Estudiantes, familias, personal y comunidad continuarán manteniendo el respeto, la confianza, Integridad y sentido de pertenencia.

- Todas las partes interesadas seguirán siendo respetadas, valoradas y tratadas como parte integral de esta organización.
- Crear confianza a través de relaciones colaborativas con interacciones y comportamientos positivos.
- Fomentar un ambiente donde una comunicación abierta e innovación sean valoradas, alentadas y apoyadas.

Participación de Padres y Familias

El Distrito y las escuelas mantendrán un ambiente donde las familias sean apoyadas, valoradas, involucradas y respetadas.

- Ampliar la utilización de centros de padres en todas las escuelas para aumentar la participación de los padres.
- Utilizar eficazmente los sitios web de la escuela y el distrito, medios de comunicación social y otras formas de comunicación de dos vías.
- Fomentar una conexión más fuerte entre la casa-escuela a través de un desarrollo profesional y la integración familiar.

Lazos Comunitarios

La comunidad del Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne continuará fortaleciendo los lazos existentes mientras continúa estableciendo nuevas relaciones.

- Promover nuestras fortalezas a través de comunicación y participación en eventos locales para adquirir y retener estudiantes y asociaciones.
- Mantener una norma de puertas abiertas para la comunidad que fomente la confianza y seguridad en el Distrito.
- Capacitar a los representantes de padres para promover los logros del Distrito en toda la comunidad.

Bud Carson *Middle School*

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908 • www.budcarsonmiddle.org



LaTima Jones
Principal

GEAR UP Week

Bud Carson Middle School kicked off its first National GEAR UP Week on September 24th to help promote college attendance to our students.

The week began with an announcement of activities, as well as college trivia during the morning announcements and GEAR Up Bingo and Jeopardy at the College and Career

Center during lunch.

Students earned prizes for their participation. The teachers shared their college experiences with the students, and the students were able to ask questions in order to better prepare for themselves for college. They also created college boards of various institutions and shared the information with their peers at a Student College Fair during lunch.

The seventh-grade students then wrote letters to their eighth-grade selves about their goals and dreams for their future. The letters will be saved for them until they complete the eighth grade so that they will be able to reflect upon their growth and make new goals for themselves.

The week concluded with College Spirit Day. Students and staff wore college shirts and sweatshirts, and the college door decorating contest winners were also announced. The week was full of activities that were enjoyed by all during this inaugural National GEAR UP Week!



Hawthorne *Math & Science Academy*

4467 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/973-8620 • www.hawthornemsa.org



Esau Berumen
Principal

Girls Build Summit

By Gifty Atanga, HMSA Class of 2019

On Friday, September 28th, all HMSA female students were invited to attend the Girls Build Summit at the USC Galen Center. This year's theme was voting, and more specifically, registering to vote. The event was in collaboration with Michelle Obama's campaign "When We All Vote."

Throughout the day, booths were set up to register and pre-register all of the girls who had arrived ready to make their mark on democracy. Michelle Obama made an appearance on the big screen with a video message encouraging us to get out and vote if we want to see change.

The speakers were incredible. The panel included California's Secretary of State Alex Padilla, who told us to "demand respect because [we] deserve respect." Khyra Simon and Delaney Tarr also joined the panel as survivors of the tragic school shootings at Stoneman Douglas High

School. They created the March For Our Lives campaign to raise awareness for gun control. It was inspiring to see girls our age, who had been through so much, sit with us and tell us that "[Our] voice is powerful. [Our] vote is powerful."

Our keynote speaker was the notable Shonda Rhimes, and I couldn't believe I was in the same room with the woman behind Grey's Anatomy, Scandal, Private Practice, and How to Get Away with Murder. Her message was simple, yet powerful: don't let anyone determine your destiny.

She told us that many people would try to steer our path in life, but we were the pilots of our futures. She encouraged us to vote because it is the most effective way to take charge in implementing the change we want to see.

By the end of the event, over 1,000 girls had either pre-registered or registered to vote, including me. We left with our lunches, a great song to end the event, and with the hope that we could one day change the world one vote at a time.

Eucalyptus *Elementary*

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369 • www.hsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Mike Goldstein
Principal

New Koalas on Campus

We're excited to welcome six new members to Koala Nation! Gina Cardillo is our assistant principal, starting her 14th year in education as a teacher, project facilitator and assistant principal. She loves to travel, and her favorite animal is the sloth!

Ms. Harrison joined us as a sixth-year teacher in our Special Day Class (SDC). In addition to teaching, she's an artist and loves to use music, art, and movement in her classroom.

Ms. Yoo, Mrs. Ledesma-Brower, and Mr. Moore all joined

our second-grade team. This is Ms. Yoo's 19th year in the Hawthorne School District (HSD), and she most recently served as the district's math coach. Mr. Moore has 20 years of experience in the HSD, has taught third-grade and intervention, and is a Dallas Cowboys fan for life! Mrs. Ledesma-Brower has been in the HSD for 17 years at Kornblum and York Schools as a first- and second-grade teacher and an intervention teacher. She loves reading biographies when she's not teaching.

Finally, we welcome Ms. Davidson, in her third year in HSD, to our third-grade team. She enjoys boxing and yoga and loves the beach and spending time with her family.

Go, Koalas!



Mr. Moore, Ms. Davidson, Mrs. Ledesma-Brower, Ms. Yoo, Ms. Harrison and Ms. Cardillo

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Hawthorne *Middle School*

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167 • www.hawthornemiddle.org



Akila Jones
Principal

Welcome, New Teachers!

Hawthorne Middle School is pleased to announce the addition of three new teachers: Mr. Yang, Mr. Starkey and Ms. Mische.

Xeng Yang has taught middle-school-, high-school- and college-level math and business courses prior to joining the HMS team as a business teacher. Having recently earned a doctorate in business administration, Mr. Yang is excited about teaching business classes and lending his expertise as an entrepreneur. Fun fact: Mr. Yang owned a produce store in San Diego.

Robert Starkey has worked for the Hawthorne School District since 2008 as a substitute and second-grade teacher. Mr. Starkey joins HMS as a sixth-grade teacher, teaching language arts, math, history and science to his students. His education includes film and media studies in addition to a master's in education from National University. When he is not teaching, he enjoys going to concerts, movies and plays and reading books.

Leslie Mische has worked with Hawthorne School District for three years, teaching a variety of subjects that include math, science and language arts. This year,

Ms. Mische is teaching eighth-grade language arts and social studies, which are her favorite subjects. Ms. Mische is very happy to be a part of the HMS team and is looking forward to a great year!

HMS gives them a big Hawk welcome!



Jefferson *Elementary*

4091 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-9423 • www.hsdjefferson.org



Josh Godin
Principal

Parents to the Rescue!

Jefferson has a group of devoted parents who have been helping out in a tremendous way. Traffic can be so crazy during the morning hours, and the crosswalks can be very dangerous spots for our students.

Well, at Jefferson, we have been saved by a group of our parents! Some parents have been trained on how to perform the

crosswalk duties. They knew that we needed help keeping students and parents safe while they are coming to school. Our parents got together and created a schedule to help out at multiple crosswalks around the school. Not only do they perform their job well but they also do it with pride and beautiful smiles each day!

Jefferson is a family environment, and students are greeted with smiles and positive attitudes before they even get into campus, thanks to our Parents to the Rescue!



Kornblum *Elementary*

3620 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294 • www.hsdkornblum.org



Marisa Stewart
Principal

Starting the Year Off Right!

At Kornblum School, we love family participation, and welcome our families to campus as often as possible.

The day before school started we had an ice cream social where our parents and students could come on campus to meet their teachers and see where they'd be lining up for the first day of school. This event was well-attended, and it set the stage for some great family participation this year.

Kornblum School kicked off the school year with our first family event, the Kornblum Family Picnic. On the day of the picnic, parents and other family members were able to join their children on campus for lunch. Teachers brought their classes to the grass area and met family members in a fun, stress-free, getting-to-know-you environment.

This year we also had a tug-of-war facilitated by our CF fitness coaches. A great time was had by all. It set a positive stage for what we expect to be a great school year here at Kornblum School. Go, Kornblum Cardinals!



Prairie Vista *Middle School*

13600 Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1003 • www.prairievistamiddle.org



Wendy Ostensen
Principal

Welcome, New Panthers!

Ms. Castillo currently teaches seventh-grade science at Prairie Vista Middle School. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, tennis, golfing and the beach. She has an adventurous 10-month-old daughter who keeps her busy.

Ms. Ryan worked as a graphic designer before changing careers to become an art educator. She loves being in the classroom and sharing her passion for art

with her students. Ms. Ryan creates and shows abstract expressionist paintings.

Ms. Mena has been with the Hawthorne School District for 20 years. In 2010, she became a Nutrition Services Manager II. She is thrilled to join the panther family. She enjoys spending time with her family traveling, camping and hiking.

John Paterson, our new assistant principal, taught fourth and fifth grades in Hawthorne. Mr. Paterson also served as the district math coach before becoming an administrator. He enjoys surfing, golf and spending quality time with his family.



Ms. Castillo, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Mena, and Mr. Paterson join the Panther staff.

Prairie Vista *South Campus*

13928 Kornblum Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-7550 • www.hawthorne.k12.ca.us



Reina Robledo
*Campus
Administrator*

Our Purpose

The Prairie Vista South Campus is an auxiliary site within the Hawthorne School District. Prairie Vista South houses the Hawthorne School District preschools, including the California State Preschool Program, the Preschool Partnership in Education, and the Hawthorne Regional Program.

The California State Preschool Program (CSPP) offers a preschool partnership in education. Also known as PrePare, it is dedicated to the early identification and intervention of children with disabilities. The Hawthorne Regional Program focuses on preschool functional curriculum, emphasizing communication and social skills for students with exceptional needs, or who are at risk for delays in their development.

In all three preschool programs, children learn by actively participating in age-appropriate activities that



foster the development of language, communication, social, motor, and pre-academic skills.

The Hawthorne School District preschool programs are well-staffed with knowledgeable, collaborative, and dedicated professionals. The programs offer a full continuum of services that can meet the individual needs of all children so that will thrive and reach their full potential.

Ramona *Elementary*

4617 W. 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-7189 • www.hsdramona.org



Patricia Ray
Principal

A Big Hello

We are happy to welcome four new staff members to Ramona. While they are new to our school, they are not new to the Hawthorne School District. They come to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Together, they have 59 years of experience!

David Fink has been teaching in the district for 17 years, and has joined our second-grade team. Most recently he was the intervention teacher at Eucalyptus School. Mr. Fink is an avid fisherman.

Silvia Ponce is teaching third grade TWBI and hails from Hawthorne Middle School. She has been with the district for four years and loves bike riding with her family.

Our counselor, Ely Arencibia, comes from Jefferson School and has been serving the families of Hawthorne since 2003. She lives with six horses.



Ms. Ponce, Ms. Carbajal, Ms. Arencibia, Mr. Fink.

Kathy Carbajal, EL Special Projects Teacher and TWBI Coordinator, has 23 years of service. She was an administrator at Zela Davis and loves the Dodgers! Please say hello and welcome them to Ramona.

Washington *Elementary*

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422 • www.hsdwashington.org



Maritza Cruz-Brown
Principal

Welcome!

Washington School would like to welcome our five new staff members for the 2018–2019 school year.

Our new staff members are Ms. Ashley Ho, Mrs. Esmeralda Martinez, Mrs. Anjillene O'Connor, Ms. Sylvia Park, and Mrs. Christine Rojas. We have added two regional SDC classes to Washington School this year, one lower-grade TK–2 class, and one upper-grade 3–5 class. Mrs. Martinez is teaching the regional lower-grade class, and Mrs. O'Connor is teaching the regional upper-grade class.

We have also added two new members to the third-grade team, Ms. Park and Mrs. Rojas. Ms. Park comes to us from Jefferson, and Mrs. Rojas comes to us from Kornblum.

Last but not least, Ms. Ho is joining the school as our new counselor. All five of these amazing ladies are a wonderful addition to our Wildcat Family.

Welcome to Washington School, home of the Wildcats!



Ms. Park, Ms. Ho, Mrs. Rojas, Mrs. Martinez, and Mrs. O'Connor (not in Photo)

York *Elementary*

11838 S. York Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-1189 • www.hsdnyork.org



Jennifer Beekman
Principal

Creating a Successful Environment

Per our mission statement, "Our objective at York School is to educate all children. As educators, we strive to provide an effective educational program which will offer all students the opportunities to develop their capabilities to their maximum potential. At York School, we provide an effective educational program which will help our students become contributing citizens in an ever-changing society. The learning environment reflects an academic focus. The principal, staff members, parents, and students perceive school as a place to learn and hold high standards and expectations for student achievement and behavior."



Ms. Uti and Mr. Bak-Boyckuck distribute donated back packs to York Students.

Parents play a key role in their children's academic, social, and emotional success. In order to support student success, use consistent daily routines to assist students with organizing their folders and backpacks, completing homework, and selecting their uniforms for the next school day. Review and sign their agenda books nightly. Look for notes from the school and the teacher. Get involved, volunteer, and seek out resources from the school whenever necessary. Talk to your children each day and effectively communicate the importance of school and making good decisions. Remind your students to self-advocate, be kind to others, and report any bullying to an adult.

We are supporting our students and enjoying another successful school year!

Zela Davis *Elementary*

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1711 • www.hsdzeladavis.org



Matt Rohrer
Principal

Brand-New Staff Members!

Zela Davis STEM Prep is off to a great start this year!

We are welcoming new administration and teachers. Mr. Rohrer, the new principal, and Mrs. Lopez, the new assistant principal have worked in the Hawthorne School District for 21 years. New teachers joined our Zela Davis

family as well: Ms. Ramirez in kindergarten; Mrs. Hargreaves-Toji in SDC; Mrs. Cartagena, Ms. Torres and Mrs. Magaña in third grade; Mrs. Langsdale and Ms. Cologne in fourth grade; and our PE Coach, Mr. MacDonald.

All of us are looking forward to working with ZD students and families, and we are excited to continue the traditions of the Zela Davis STEM Prep!



Fruits & Veggies – 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 Hawthorne in the subject line.

Entries must be received by December 15, 2018

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

LETTUCE	LEMONS	BERRIES
APPLES	LIME	CHERRIES
CABBAGE	CELERY	CARROTS
KOHLRABI	POTATOES	MANGO
ONIONS	TOMATOES	BANANAS
PEPPERS	KIWI	PLUMS
ORANGES	GRAPES	BROCCOLI



Congratulations to
Sandra Villalva and Veronica Morales
Winners of our September Word Search Contest!

Common Sense Media

Social Media Can Be a Force for Good

By Caroline Knorr



Discover the ways social media can be a force for good in the lives of kids and teens, and help them maximize the benefits.

For a few years now, many teens have been saying that social media -- despite its flaws -- is mostly positive. And new research is shedding light on the good things that can happen when kids connect, share, and learn online. As kids begin to use tools such as Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and even YouTube in earnest, they're learning the responsibility that comes with the power to broadcast to the world. You can help nurture the positive aspects by accepting how important social media is for kids and helping them find ways for it to add real value to their lives. For inspiration, here are some of the benefits of your kid being social media-savvy:

It lets them do good. Twitter, Facebook, and other large social networks expose kids to important issues and people from all over the world. Kids realize they have a voice they didn't have before and are doing everything from crowdfunding social justice projects to anonymously tweeting positive thoughts. Check out these sites that help kids do good.

It strengthens friendships. Studies, including Common Sense Media's *Social Media*, *Social Life: How Teens View Their Digital Lives* and the Pew Research Center's *Teens, Technology and Friendships* show that social media helps teens make friends and keep them.

It can offer a sense of belonging. While heavy social media use can isolate kids, a study conducted by Griffith University and the University of Queensland in Australia found that although American teens have fewer friends than their historical counterparts, they are less lonely than teens in past decades. They report feeling less isolated and have actually become more socially adept, partly due to an increase in technology use.

It provides genuine support. Online acceptance -- whether a kid is interested in an unusual subject that isn't considered "cool" or is grappling with sexual identity -- can validate a marginalized kid. Suicidal teens can even get immediate access to quality support online. One example occurred on a *Minecraft* forum on Reddit when an entire online community used voice-conferencing software to talk a teen out of his decision to commit suicide.

It helps them express themselves. The popularity of fan fiction (original stories based on existing material that people write and upload online) proves how strong the desire for self-expression is. Both producers and performers can satisfy this need through social media. Digital technology allows kids to share their work with a wider audience and even collaborate with far-flung partners (an essential 21st-century skill). If they're really serious, social media can provide essential feedback for kids to hone their craft.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at www.commonsensemedia.org

Grades of Green

Global Water Campaign

By Jei Florentino

On September 10th, Los Angeles based environmental education nonprofit Grades of Green kicked off its global Water Campaign for middle and high school students. The Water Campaign engages students to research a local water issue, develop an innovative solution, and then share that solution with the community to advocate for policy change. Each team receives personalized support throughout the program from a Grades of Green Mentor. Last year's winning Water Campaign teams collectively conserved and protected a total of nearly 900,000 gallons of water. Now, over 80 student teams from 10 different countries are competing to win the \$1,000 grand prize for the team with the most impressive overall impact.

Are you interested in joining a Grades of Green Campaign? Email info@gradesofgreen.org for more information on how to sign your school up for Grades of Green's Waste Campaign beginning January 2019!



Grades of Green has been empowering students to take action to care for the environment since 2010. In this short time, Grades of Green has helped mentor over half a million students across 21 countries. Based in California, they provide personalized mentorship to hundreds of students in the greater Los Angeles area. To find out more information about Grades of Green, email info@gradesofgreen.org and follow us on Instagram @gradesofgreen.

Christina's Book Review



Politely Funny

How Rude!: The Teen Guide to Good Manners, Proper Behavior, and Not Grossing People Out By Alex J. Packer, Ph.D



The book title is self-explanatory. Hands down, this was one of the most enjoyable, fun, informational, entertaining, captivating book I have ever read. "Good manners don't cost anything. You can have the BEST for free." You can look up a specific topic or read the whole thing for all-around understanding of manners. So, why choose good manners? I will answer with one quote from the book: "We used to spend every Christmas with my aunt. I was always nasty, bored and annoying brat. When she died, I lost out on her \$1,000,000 will." There are manners for behaving with friends, parents, teachers, employers and much more. The best part is that the book demonstrates how good manners bring you many benefits (for instance, get you a job or get help from teachers) versus how bad manners are detrimental to your life. I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars. 465 pages, but what a worthy reading!

Christina J. is an 9th grader. Christina is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book about some great adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student and a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

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Wellness Committee Meeting Reunión del Comité de Bienestar

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Estamos buscando padres que deseen unirse a nuestro Comité de Bienestar y que estén dispuestos a asistir y servir como enlace en las Reuniones del Consejo del Plantel Educativo.

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