

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District



Volume 10, Issue 37

October 2020 – April 2021



NLMUSD Board Members and Executive Staff celebrate the grand opening of the new athletic facility at JGHS.

SUPERINTENDENT

New Challenges and Opportunities

The beginning of each new school year brings new challenges and opportunities as we continue to meet the changing needs of our students. The 2020-2021 school year has started off in a manner unlike any school year we have experienced in our lifetime and the reopening of schools during the pandemic has demanded extensive planning as we navigate the uncertainty. Fortunately, everyone has risen to the occasion and have been working tirelessly to adapt to our new reality and we remain committed to providing support to our students, teachers, and parents.

During the first few weeks of the school year, our students have exhibited a tremendous amount of resiliency as they navigate their education through Distance Learning. We are also fortunate to have the support of our parents in providing a bridge of communication between the students and teachers as we continue to refine and improve our Distance Learning model. Finally, our teachers continue

to develop effective and innovative ways of engaging their students to ensure access to a quality educational experience. Despite this new educational reality, in a sense, the first day of school this year had similar themes to those of the past: excitement and anticipation.

An indicator of success in any organization, is how an organization reacts during a crisis. Due to the amount of planning and foresight that went into the technology plan in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District over the past several years, we were prepared to meet the needs brought upon us to successfully transition our students and teachers to a comprehensive Distance Learning model. While this transition was not without challenges, the technology foundation already in place allowed us to focus on students and families with the most urgent needs and to provide targeted support and training to our teachers.

Although the Distance Learning model cannot replace the experience students have when they are in the classroom setting with teachers and classmates, we strive to provide the best virtual learning environment possible. Our district will continue to work with state and local agencies to monitor the available options for bringing students back to school in a safe manner, and we look forward to what the rest of the school year will bring.

Actualizaciones de las Noticias Escolares

El comienzo de cada año nuevo escolar trae nuevos retos y oportunidades a medida que continuamos satisfaciendo las necesidades cambiantes de nuestros estudiantes. El año escolar 2020-2021 ha comenzado de una manera diferente a cualquier año escolar que hayamos experimentado en nuestra vida y la reapertura de escuelas durante la pandemia ha exigido una planificación extensa a medida que navegamos por la incertidumbre. Afortunadamente, todos se han puesto a la altura de las circunstancias y hemos trabajado incansablemente para adaptarnos a nuestra nueva

realidad y seguimos comprometidos a brindar apoyo a nuestros estudiantes, maestros, y padres.

Durante las primeras semanas del año escolar, nuestros estudiantes han mostrado una enorme capacidad de adaptación en lo que navegan por su educación a través del aprendizaje a distancia. También somos afortunados de contar con el apoyo de nuestros padres para proporcionar un puente de comunicación entre los estudiantes y los maestros mientras continuamos refinando y mejorando nuestro modelo de aprendizaje a distancia. Finalmente, nuestros maestros continúan desarrollando

formas efectivas e innovadoras de involucrar a sus estudiantes para asegurar el acceso a una experiencia educativa de calidad. A pesar de esta nueva realidad educativa, el primer día de clases de este año tuvo temas similares a los del pasado: entusiasmo y anticipación.

Un indicador de éxito en cualquier organización, es cómo reacciona una organización durante una crisis. Debido a la cantidad de planificación y previsión que se entregó en el plan de tecnología en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada durante los últimos años, estábamos preparados para satisfacer las necesidades que nos llegaron para hacer una transición exitosa de nuestros estudiantes y maestros a un modelo de Aprendizaje a Distancia completo. Ya que esta transición no estuvo sin desafíos, la base tecnológica ya establecida nos permitió concentrarnos en los estudiantes y las familias con las necesidades más urgentes y brindar apoyo y capacitación enfocada a nuestros maestros.

Aunque el modelo de Aprendizaje a Distancia no puede reemplazar la experiencia que tienen los estudiantes cuando están en el entorno de un salón de clases con maestros y compañeros de clase, nos esmeramos para brindar el mejor entorno de aprendizaje virtual posible. Nuestro distrito continuará trabajando con agencias estatales y locales para monitorear las opciones disponibles para traer a los estudiantes de regreso a la escuela de una manera segura, y esperamos con gusto lo que traerá el resto del año escolar.



John M. Lopez
Superintendent



Eastwood Elementary Principal Darryll Ramsey demonstrates a learning activity at the NLMUSD Future Ready Expo.

2019-2020 Accomplishments

The 2019-2020 school year provided our schools opportunities to create new and innovative ways to engage our students and families. Norwalk-La Mirada has much to celebrate because of our accomplishments:

- 2019 Blended Learning Summit was an opportunity for our teachers to select their own learning paths focusing on technology integration in the classroom. NLMUSD was selected for California's leading educational honor, the Golden Bell Award.
- 2020 Future Ready Expo showcased all NLMUSD schools and programs in one place for our students and community to explore.
- Two of our middle schools received a prestigious recognition: Middle Schools to Watch for their improvement efforts characterized by a continuous trajectory toward success: Hutchinson MS and Los Alisos MS.
- We are pleased to announce our partnership with Cal State University, Long Beach, in including the students of Norwalk-La Mirada in their local admission areas. This partnership will create more opportunities for NLMUSD students to attend college.
- Norwalk High School SkillsUSA Chapter was recognized as one of 24 SkillsUSA chapters nationally to achieve Models of Excellence status.
- Our counselors in Norwalk High School received the RAMP (Recognized ACSA Model Program) Award, a distinguished honor that highlights their commitment to deliver a data-informed school counseling program.
- We are now 1-1 device for our students district wide and partner with Greater LA Educational Foundation, LACOE, Verizon, 1Million Project to provide wireless connectivity for students and families in need.
- The Measure G initiative has approved state of the art athletic fields and stadiums at the high schools. These upgrades will foster pride and excellence.
- Gardenhill and Morrison Elementary were recognized as California Distinguished schools.
- We held our first Annual NLMUSD Parent Conference.
- Gardenhill was recognized as a PTA National School of Excellence.
- Gardenhill Elementary was recognized as Project Lead the Way Distinguished School.

Our District continues to move forward thanks to the board's support and vision in addition to the partnerships we have established to ensure Norwalk-La Mirada continues to assist our students, families and communities.

Every Student. Future Ready. Our Promise!

Logros del 2019-2020

El año escolar 2019-2020 brindó a nuestras escuelas oportunidades para crear maneras nuevas e innovadoras de involucrar a nuestros estudiantes y familias. Norwalk-La Mirada tiene mucho que celebrar por a nuestros logros:

- La Cumbre de Aprendizaje Incorporada, "Blended Learning Summit," de 2019 fue una oportunidad para que nuestros maestros seleccionaran sus propios caminos de aprendizaje enfocándose en la integración de tecnología en el salón de clases. NLMUSD fue seleccionado para el honor de liderazgo educativo de California, el premio de la Campana de Oro, "Golden Bell Award."
- El Expo Preparado para el Futuro de 2020 "2020 Future Ready Expo," exhibió todas las escuelas y programas del NLMUSD en un solo lugar para que nuestros estudiantes y la comunidad las exploren.
- Dos de nuestras escuelas intermedias recibieron un prestigioso reconocimiento: Escuelas Intermedias para Observar, "Middle Schools to Watch," por sus esfuerzos de mejora caracterizados por una trayectoria continua hacia el éxito: Escuela Intermedia (MS, por sus siglas en inglés) Hutchinson y Los Alisos.
- Nos complace anunciar nuestra asociación con la Universidad Estatal de California de Long Beach, "Cal State University, Long Beach," en incluir a los estudiantes de Norwalk-La Mirada en sus áreas de admisión locales. Esta asociación creará más oportunidades para que los estudiantes del NLMUSD asistan a la universidad.
- El Capitulo HabilidadesUSA, "SkillsUSA Chapter" de la Escuela Secundaria Norwalk fue reconocido como uno de 24 "SkillsUSA Chapter" nacionales de lograr el estatus de Modelos de Excelencia.
- Nuestros consejeros en la Escuela Secundaria Norwalk recibieron el premio RAMP (Programa modelo reconocido de ACSA), un honor distinguido que destaca su compromiso de ofrecer un programa de consejería escolar basado en información de datos.
- Ahora somos un dispositivo de 1-1 para nuestros estudiantes en todo el distrito y nos asociamos con la Fundación Educativa Gran LA, "Greater LA Educational Foundation", La Oficina de Educación del Condado de Los Ángeles (LACOE, por sus siglas en inglés), Verizon, y Proyecto 1 Millón, "1Million Project," para brindar conectividad inalámbrica a estudiantes y familias necesitados.
- La iniciativa de la Medida G ha aprobado en las escuelas secundarias campos deportivos y estadios de última generación. Estas actualizaciones fomentarán el orgullo y la excelencia.
- La Primaria Gardenhill y Morrison fueron reconocidas como escuelas distinguidas de California.
- Presentamos nuestra primera Conferencia Anual de Padres de NLMUSD.
- Gardenhill fue reconocida como Escuela Nacional de Excelencia de la Asociación de Maestros y Padres (PTA, por sus siglas en inglés).
- La Primaria Gardenhill fue reconocida como Escuela Distinguida de Proyecto Guía el Camino, "Project Lead the Way Distinguished School."

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Board of Education



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Education is Everything!

By Jude Cazares, President NLMUSD Board of Education

I was always taught that getting a good education could help me to achieve my dreams. It can be the silver bullet that levels the playing field for our children and gives them a better life than our own. It is the Great equalizer. It uplifts whole communities when success and excellence are the culture of the school district. That is why the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District has made the promise to you to have every child “Future Ready” by the time they graduate. We have made it our mission to hire the best educators, starting with our new Superintendent, John Lopez, to help us accomplish our goal of giving the best education that we can. We have wonderful teachers in the classrooms and school employees being creative and open to new learning, especially now in our virtual settings. Everyone is pulling together to maintain the excellence that you want for your children. Everyone from the custodians to the nutrition department are pitching in to make our success for your children a team effort. We strive to serve you in the best way that we possibly can.

We know that this year has been extremely difficult for many in our communities. This pandemic has now affected two school years and has caused us to rethink how we conduct business and how we can continue to deliver a top-notch education to our students. We have been successful in many areas because of our proactive planning. Norwalk-La Mirada is dedicated to maintaining a “climate that promotes high expectations, strives to meet individuals needs and values diversity.” Of course, we look forward to the day when we can return back to our schools and classrooms safely and in good health. We, as a Board of Education, promise to do everything in our power to make that happen when it is safe to do so. The safety of our students and employees is of the utmost importance to us.

Finally, we understand that this is not easy for many, especially the students. We also understand that many of you parents have had to make a huge sacrifice in trying to work and teach their children at home. Our homes have become our places of work and learning, and this

¡La educación lo es todo!

Siempre me enseñaron que tener una buena educación podía ayudarme a alcanzar mis sueños. Puede ser la bala de plata que nivele el campo de juego para nuestros hijos y les dé una vida mejor que la nuestra. Es el Gran equalizador. Eleva a comunidades enteras cuando el éxito y la excelencia son la cultura del distrito escolar. Es por eso que el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada le ha hecho la promesa de que todos los niños estén “preparados para el futuro” para cuando se gradúen. Nuestra misión es contratar a los mejores educadores, comenzando con nuestro nuevo Superintendente, John Lopez, para ayudarnos a lograr nuestro objetivo de brindar la mejor educación posible. Tenemos maestros maravillosos en los salones de clases y empleados de la escuela que son creativos y están abiertos a nuevos aprendizajes, especialmente ahora en nuestros entornos virtuales. Todos se unen para mantener la excelencia que desea usted para sus hijos. Todos, desde los conserjes hasta el departamento de nutrición, están colaborando para hacer el éxito para sus hijos un esfuerzo de equipo. Nos esforzamos por servirle de la mejor manera posible.

Sabemos que este año ha sido extremadamente difícil para muchos en nuestras comunidades. Esta pandemia ahora ha afectado a dos años escolares y nos ha hecho repensar cómo llevamos a cabo los negocios y cómo podemos continuar brindando una educación de primera a nuestros estudiantes. Hemos tenido éxito en muchas áreas gracias a nuestra planificación proactiva. Norwalk-La Mirada se dedica a mantener un “clima que promueve altas expectativas, se esfuerza por satisfacer las necesidades de las personas y valora la diversidad”. Por supuesto, anhelamos el día en que podamos regresar a nuestras escuelas y salones de clases de manera segura y con buena salud. Nosotros, como Junta de Educación, prometemos hacer todo lo que esté dentro de nuestro poder para hacer esto posible, cuando sea seguro hacerlo. La seguridad de nuestros estudiantes y empleados es de suma importancia para nosotros.

Finalmente, entendemos que esto no es fácil para muchos, especialmente los estudiantes. También

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Welcome back to a new school year. This is our 10th year publishing the NLMUSD *School News*. All of us can remember our first day of kindergarten, meeting our teachers, seeing our old friends and making new ones, and finding our classrooms. However, students are having a different experience this year that they will also remember.

The past few years we learned about STEAM, STEM, and lots of acronyms for new programs. We can now add ZOOM and other communication programs. Lots of parenting hours have gone into encouraging children to spend

less time on technical devices and more time playing with friends outside. Now children are focused on computer screens for learning and are not allowed to physically interact with their friends. Through all of this children continue to laugh and find joy. We are an innovative society capable of rising to challenges.

Thank you parents for doing your part to help your children adapt to the abnormal. Thank you educators for leading and continuing the learning process.

Our next issue is May 12, 2021.
Be well.

School News

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Covering the
**NORWALK- LA MIRADA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Keeping Your Family Safe and Healthy This Flu Season



Graham Tse, M.D.,
chief medical officer,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

As we approach peak flu season during a pandemic, now more than ever, it's extremely important to ensure that everyone in your family follows optimal hand hygiene practices. Good and frequent hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent infections, including flu and COVID-19.

Parents play an important role in teaching children lifelong healthy habits, which includes handwashing. Use these tips to encourage hand hygiene:

- Explain that handwashing prevents your child from getting sick and getting other people sick.
- Encourage your child to wash his or her hands before eating and avoid touching their face with unwashed hands.
- Make sure your child always washes their hands after going to the restroom, playing outside, touching an animal, or coughing or sneezing.

- Provide your child with hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. Lead by example and wash your own hands as often as possible and carry hand sanitizer with you.

In addition to good hand hygiene, it's also important that you and your family get an annual flu shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone over 6-months-old get a flu shot by the end of October, with some rare exceptions. Once available, it will also be important to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to help end the global pandemic.

As the COVID-19 pandemic and flu season overlap, make sure you and your family take precautions to stay healthy. Face masks, hand washing, social distancing and avoiding large gatherings are important practices that help prevent illness.



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Sharon Todd
Director

Adult Students Celebrate Virtual Education Gains

While current circumstances challenge everyone, adult students celebrate discovered silver linings. Students' increased computer skills have opened doors to a variety of resources and valuable learning opportunities. They are connecting with each other in virtual classes and supporting each other in common struggles. Some students reached out across state and national boundaries to have friends and family join them in their online learning! Perhaps most importantly, persevering through online instruction is giving them a chance to continue to reach their goals of higher education and employment.

A recent Adult School graduate, Lurvin Flores, shared the following with her teacher: "I took so many online classes at the adult school that I'm prepared to self-motivate and meet deadlines. I'm applying to universities this Fall. Thank you so much for supporting me when I needed it." We celebrate Lurvin's success and encourage others to join us in virtual classes!



Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/921-7610



Laurel Parker
Director

My Family, Myself

This year, we are funded to provide early education to 1013 children, from ages 0-4, and pregnant mothers, too. Due to COVID-19, instead of classes, teachers and are providing instruction as a robust Distance Virtual Learning experience for all enrolled children and families. All teachers continue to use the adopted curriculum for the program option: Parents as Teachers for the Early Head Start Home Visiting Program, and Creative Curriculum for all Head Start and State Preschool classes. The first unit of study was "My Family, Myself." In the picture one of our students, Delilah Salais, is drawing a picture of her family.

Our next units of study will be Clothes, and then Pets.



Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-1553 • www.nlmusd.org



Benjamin Webster
Principal

Looking Forward to Meeting on Campus Again

Like all teachers across our district, the Benton team miss their students and we are counting down the days until we can meet again on campus. In the meantime, Benton teachers have sharpened their digital skills in Zoom, Schoology, Notability, and

Google. Distance learning accelerated how we approach teaching and learning and students' educational experiences will be vastly improved when we return to school for in-person instruction.

Jessica Murray is a great example of an excellent classroom teacher who has transitioned to Distance Learning. Mrs. Murray is our 6th grade Language Arts teacher and in her third year

at Benton. Mrs. Murray's friendliness, high expectations, creativity and organizational skills provide students with a supportive learning environment as they transition to middle school. While Distance Learning will never replace the relationships which are forged in a physical classroom, Mrs. Murray is an excellent reflection of our staff.



Mrs. Murray's Virtual Reading Room

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Chavez *Elementary School*

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Gabriela Galvez-Reyna
Principal

Committed to Every Child

At Cesar Chavez Elementary we are committed to do everything we can to ensure that, every day, every child thrives. We know how important it is to find ways to connect, build relationships and celebrate. To that end, every student and every family has had the opportunity to meet their teacher in person during the drive-through distribution of materials. Our wonderful PTA parents purchased supplies needed to welcome our families and wish them a successful start to the 2020-2021 school year. We also took this opportunity to hand out i-Ready Yard Signs awards to the almost 100 students that logged in and completed lessons toward the end of the last school year. It was a great way to start the new school year!



Corvallis *MS STEAM Magnet*

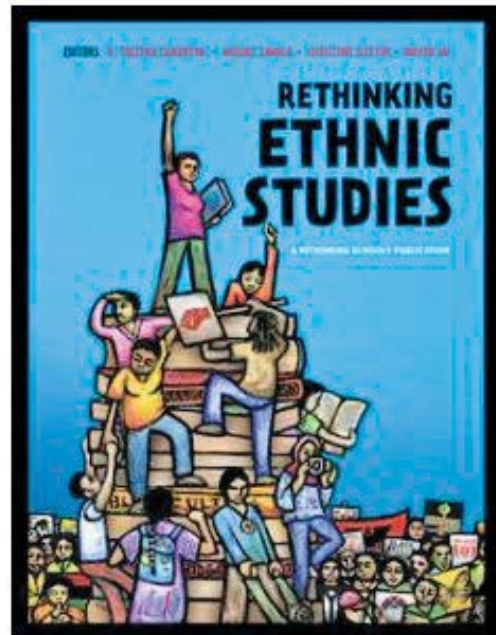
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Dr. Nancy Ruvalcaba
Principal

Ethnic Studies

Corvallis Middle School STEAM Magnet in Norwalk has become the first middle school in NLMUSD to offer Ethnic Studies as an elective to 8th grade students. “The timing was just right,” shares Dr. Ruvalcaba, principal of Corvallis STEAM Magnet. “We saw the efforts of our district team to provide a solid foundation for our high schools through their development of Ethnic Studies program, we’re just happy to help in that process with having our eighth grade students get exposed to the curriculum,” she added. Teaching the course is Ms. Lazatin, eighth grade Social Science teacher, who has modeled the course to mirror the key concepts students will dig into at the high school level. The work from UCLA’s Center X continues to guide the development of the course and we look forward to participating in the Virtual Ethnic Studies Conference being organized by Dr. Medrano and the Educational Services team.



Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-9934 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Lorena Sierra
Principal

Off to a great start!

Our school year is underway, and we are all learning new and engaging ways to captivate our students virtually. We kicked off the school year by focusing on building strong connections and building opportunities for teachers to get to know their students well. This foundation is important in helping us build relevant instructional experiences that connect

to real life and build a long-lasting and meaningful education. We also continue to make academic discourse central to how students communicate with their peers and teachers. On a daily basis, students have the opportunity to talk and explain what they are learning as they practice using new vocabulary to grow their communication skills. Our relentless focus on academic discourse has led our school to become highly recognized as one of Los Angeles Top Schools in 2020! This recognition is given to schools that outperform the state average on mandated assessments. Dolland is surpassing our state's average in both reading and math! This is a great achievement for our community, and we are not stopping here! We will continue



to develop our students' communication skills to help them become even more successful beyond their elementary years. Go Huskies!

Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734 • www.nlmusd.org



Shanti Gallegos
Principal

Fun with Friends Virtual Recess

At Dulles we are starting a Fun with Friends Time. With input from staff members and parents, we created a virtual recess to allow our students to be active and to provide social interaction with their friends.

Social connection

and physical activity are critical to mood and motivation. Research shows that children learn better, do better on tests, and remember more when they have had the opportunity to engage in physical activity. We are scheduling time for Dolphins to be active during distance learning and interact with their peers. We are asking families to partner with us and to help by starting or ending their days with a walk, run, or bike ride to ensure exercise for

their children. We want to give everyone an opportunity for movement during distance learning, and provide social and emotional connections through interaction.



Students in Mrs. Holash's second grade class at Dulles Elementary School are moving and having fun doing Marshmallow Stomp.

Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-6480 • www.nlmusd.org



Darryll Ramsey Jr.
Principal

EastwoodTV

When schools closed and the education experience as we knew it turned upside-down, we were suddenly faced with the challenge of maintaining the connection between

school and home. Navigating through uncharted waters, livestreaming weekly assemblies provided a step in the right direction. Each week Mr. Ramsey jumps onto YouTube and interacts with the students by leading the flag salute, morning exercises, student birthday shout-outs, hosting riddle and scavenger hunts, prize giveaways, and highlighting monthly PBIS focuses. With the 2020-21 school year now in full swing, what started as a point of connection has grown into what we have rebranded as “EastwoodTV”. The weekly assemblies are now led by



Mr. Ramsey and Ms. Franco on EastwoodTV Livestream

Mr. Ramsey and cohost Ms. Franco (our ESSS). Recorded SEL and PBIS content is being added to the channel so that students can connect beyond just a weekly assembly. Check us out and don't forget to subscribe! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAXLqptu5CpQVBLfcU3zNfQ>

Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-9501 • www.nlmusd.org



Sharon Stewart
Principal

Serving Generations

Edmondson Elementary is the home of the Mighty Eagles. We are proud to continue to be an AVID and DUAL Immersion school, where college and

career plans bloom here. We care about the whole child, academically and social-emotionally. At the beginning of every school year, there is always lots of excitement in the air as we meet our incoming students and begin to build important, positive relationships. This year was no different, despite starting with 100% distance learning. The level of excitement was just the same. It is even more exciting when we see former students who now have their children at our school. We are fortunate and grateful to be able to serve



There was a lot of excitement in the air when this photo was taken! It captured the moment when Mrs. Erguera discovered (during iPad and student materials distribution) that a parent of one of her new students for this school year was her former student years ago.

generations. We extend our hands in partnership with our parents and families, as we work together to make this unusual school year a great year! Every student, future ready, our promise! Go Mighty Eagles!

El Camino *High School*

14625 Keese Dr., Whittier, CA 90604 • 562/944-0033 • www.nlmusd.org



Mark Hunter
Principal

Our New Normal

The 20-21 school year started off for El Camino on August 13 different from any in its past. Although students are not physically attending campus, the learning continues for all students. El Camino purchased the Acellus online platform to work in tandem with the site's Edgenuity offerings. The Math and Science Departments are piloting the Acellus program this year while the English

and Social Science Departments continue to service our students through Edgenuity. Students and teachers are now trained and acclimated to the Acellus program and the early feedback has been great.

El Camino strives to offer the finest customer service to our students and their families as evident by the photo caption above. All of our students were offered the opportunity for one on one training on how to access and use Schoology and PowerSchool by our office staff. Academically, the site continues to offer our students the chance to be A-G compliant through our online offerings so that we can commit to our promise of "Every Student, Future Ready."



Attendance Clerk Marcela Sanchez and Data Clerk Ryan Medina team up to assist a family seeking registration information for El Camino High School.

Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-0970 • www.nlmusd.org



Bonnie Lytle
Principal

Together or Apart, We Are Eagles At Heart

Escalona Elementary, like all schools in our area, began the year with a 100% distance learning model. Teachers welcomed their students and parents to their

first zoom meeting on August 13 and since that time, students have been engaged in learning by logging on for live, virtual instruction a minimum of three times daily. Asynchronous assignments complement and reinforce the instruction provided through zoom meetings.

In addition to providing academic instruction, our teachers are providing lessons that reinforce our behavior expectations to "Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe." These expectations apply for on site learning as well as distance learning, and are lessons that are valuable throughout our students' lives...through college and beyond!



Escalona's exceptional PTA continues to work toward providing exciting and enriching programs for our students. One such program, Meet the Masters, will continue in a distance learning format

this year. Our PTA Membership Drive is in full swing and will continue all year. Please show your support to our PTA and our students by becoming a member of Escalona's PTA. Escalona's theme this year reinforces that we don't have to be together to be proud Eagles. Together or apart, we are Eagles at heart! By working together, Escalona teachers, students, and parents can do VIRTUALLY anything!

Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/921-9908 • www.nlmusd.org



Stepping Up, Coming Together & Moving Forward!

The Foster Road family was understandably anxious to start off the school year, but we were able to launch this school

year in a positive and productive manner. Given the environment we find ourselves in and the challenges of starting off the school year with minimal face to face interaction, our community has been patient and understanding as we planned the unique 2020-2021 school year.

Prior to the first day of school, we had impressive collaborative efforts between the teachers, support staff and PTA. We were able to provide supply bags and curriculum materials for all of our students. Information regarding distance learning model and schedules were also provided. Parents stepped up by picking up materials. Over 90% of the bags were distributed the day before school started. In addition we were able to supply all students that



Positively kicking off the school year with our distribution team!

requested an iPad with a school device tailored for accessing all distance learning apps. As a result, students were able to get the school year started with more confidence.

As we continue with our Distance Learning Model, we have been able to overcome multiple hurdles. Weekly information sessions are held to keep stakeholders

aware of developments. Staff are on site providing tech and logistical support for our parents and students. Teachers are providing all of our students valuable instruction multiple times a day. Parents are also providing invaluable support from home and students are responding with resilience and smiles! More than ever, it is taking all of us to ensure that our bright young scholars are checking in and making progress on a daily basis.

Foster Road is definitely coming together during these trying times and moving forward!

Be a STAR, strive for Safety, Taking responsibility, Achieving your best, and Respect.

Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-6128 • www.nlmusd.org



Team Gardenhill!

Gardenhill families and staff came together to make our 2020-2021 school year as smooth as possible! Teachers have prepared all summer long with their grade level teams to ensure that students continue to be provided a rigorous learning schedule, with a focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for all. Connecting with students and maintaining positive relationships will

remain a focus for staff throughout the year. Now, more than ever, we need to be creative in supporting students and their connections to school. Teachers are using various apps learned through district supports, to guide students through lessons that are engaging and meaningful. Using an all hands-on deck approach, Gardenhill is committed to making students our top priority and supporting our families with their new roles at home. Patriot Assemblies, messages from our Elementary Support Specialist, and Gardenhill Greetings from staff will continue throughout the year.



Mrs. Duarte, fifth grade teacher, ready to Zoom!

Glazier *Elementary School*

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/863-8796 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Susan Newcomb
Principal

Community Cares Award

It is an honor to share Glazier's recent recognition under the California PBIS' award, Community Cares. This award recognizes Glazier for "outstanding contribution of support and care" during the unprecedented spring closures. Through our staff's individual and collective efforts, we did AMAZING things for students and families. Highlights include our quick shift to Zoom, virtual dance parties through Glazier

PTA, curbside pick-up of hard copy packets for families preferring that method, and terrific Nutrition Services staff keeping our community nourished through it all. Our specialists helped make sure all students got their needs met, and our front office answered questions and supported families in multiple ways. The entire team rallied to get any needs met as seamlessly as possible: That same approach helped us get this year off to a great start. Way to go, team: Thank you! It's a great time to be a Gladiator!



"Glazier is among a handful of schools in California receiving the Community Cares award for outstanding supports during the unprecedented pandemic."

Glenn *High School*

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Francisco Ramirez
Principal

Keeping Students Connected to School—A Virtual Experience

With the onset of Distance Learning to kick-off the 2020-21 school year, connecting with students and parents has everyone at JGHS exploring creative ways keep our school community engaged and active with school sponsored events. The JGHS.

org website and @weareglenneagles Instagram account have become the hub for sharing a variety of virtual programs and resources for families. Everything from our Back-To-School Night, to our College & Career Expo Week have gone virtual! Even our performing arts program will be hosting a completely virtual performance of "A Night of Broadway 2" later this fall. In addition, JGHS is committed to continuing to provide our students and families with access to needed resources through our Community Schools Initiative and social-emotional support through Margaret's Place, a new program to empower youth to end hate and promote healthy living. We are excited to bring these and many more opportunities to our students to keep their high school experiences memorable.



Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-3268 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Robin Padgett
Principal

Preparing for the 20-21 School Year – Teacher Tech Leaders

During the summer, Hutchinson's teachers participated in training for technology in preparation for distance & hybrid teaching models for the 20-21 school year. They took the initiative to earn credentials with Apple classroom, through LACOE and our own NLMUSD Virtual Blended Learning Summit. Teacher leaders at Hutchinson developed and facilitated trainings for VBLS – Schoology, PLTW, student engagement and developing relationships through distance learning. Our teachers continue to lead by presenting informative and meaningful professional development to our site team during weekly staff meetings. Our site team is truly a cross-content collaborative PLC that work together to improve their practice for the benefit of our students!



Johnston *Elementary School*

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-2508 • www.nlmusd.org



Angela Togia
Principal

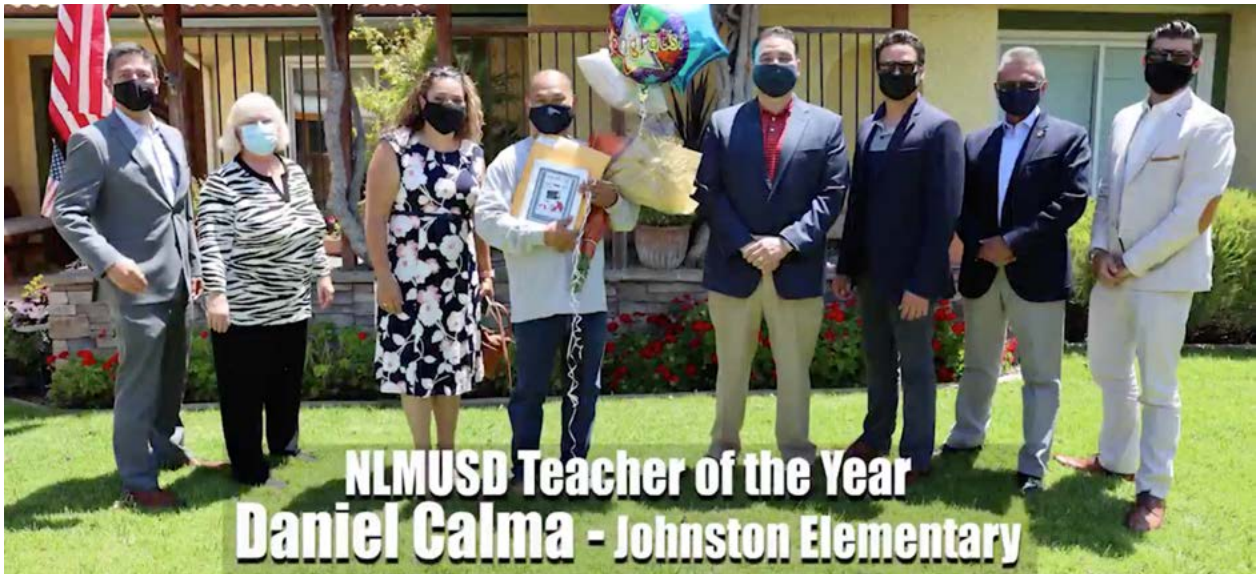
Johnston Roadrunners – Manifesting Our Greatness

The start of the 2020-21 school year will be one to remember. We are facing unprecedented challenges, but this is also a wonderful time for us to rise up together to help our Roadrunners thrive. Kudos to Johnston Teachers who received extensive, high-quality professional development from our awesome district coaches and colleagues.

Our teachers immediately applied their learning and are

making Distance Learning successful. We are extremely proud of our Johnston Families who are partnering with us during Distance Learning and are providing support to their children at home. To our Roadrunners, we know this time will make you stronger because you are resilient!

Despite all the disarray in our world in 2020, there are still wonderful things happening around us. Our FABUOLOUS teacher Mr. Calma was selected as the NLMUSD District Teacher of the Year. We are very privileged to have Mr. Calma represent D.D. Johnston and NLMUSD.



Mr. Calma received a surprise visit from our splendid NLMUSD Executive Staff. YOU ROCK MR. CALMA!

La Mirada *High School*

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Lisa Reed
Principal

Together Wherever We Are

Distance learning is in full swing at La Mirada High School and staying connected has never been more important. The one thing we knew our students and staff would miss the most was EACHOTHER. From the first day of school, La Mirada began working towards creating an online community through a social media campaign. Utilizing Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and our School Website we have new content being published each day. Students and staff alike are participating daily with Motivational Mondays, # Challenge Tuesdays from our Yearbook Team, Weekly Wednesday Updates from Principal Reed, Throwback Thursday featuring LMHS Staff and Fun Fridays led each week by ASB. Our theme this year is “Together Wherever We Are” and we are committed to creating memories and staying connected!

LA MIRADA HIGH SCHOOL *Join us Online!*

Instagram
@LAMIRADAHIGHSCHOOL
school updates & info
@LMHSPRINCIPAL
hear from your principal

facebook
@LAMIRADAHS
connect with your school

twitter
@LMHSMATADORES
school updates & info
@LMHADMIN
connect with your administrators

WWW.LAMIRADAHS.ORG
visit our website



SCAN OUR QR CODE TO GET LINKED TO ALL THE SITES ABOVE
#lmhstogetherwherever

La Pluma *Elementary School*

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-7104 • www.nlmusd.org



Terry Pace
Principal

La Pluma STRONG, All Year Long!

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! Our “team” focus began in early August as we worked to prepare our teachers and staff to begin the new year in a Distance Learning Model. We officially welcomed our new Panthers, from a distance, on August 13. Teachers shared their smiles and greeted their students via Zoom. Although it was a unique start to our school year, our team effort gave us many “wins” to celebrate beginning on day one!

In these first twelve days, our students have engaged in synchronous and asynchronous instruction. We have been teaching our school-wide expectations to Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and most importantly to Be Kind. In addition, we focused on building a growth mind-set, establishing Zoom norms, building classroom communities, setting expectations, and assisting students with using their new platforms.



**Our 1st Virtual Stand-Up Assembly
with our special guest, PAW!a the Panther.**

We are proud to be ONE TEAM, where Together We Achieve More. We are La Pluma STRONG!

Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroft Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/462-9273 • www.nlmusd.org



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Bridging the Digital and Hands-on Divide with Counting Collections

Lampton Elementary has a school wide focus on math instruction that builds conceptual understanding. Since we have moved into full distance learning, our teachers have adapted teaching methods to allow students to show and discuss models of their learning with others on Zoom, Schoology and Seesaw. One example of this is Counting Collections. Families have come together to find objects that their children can group and practice counting. Collections include everything from Lego blocks to pasta, coins to spoons, or buttons to beans. Our youngest students might categorize items by color and count items up to 10 or 20. Older students are working with larger numbers, and quickly evaluate the efficiency of counting by ones. This leads very naturally to grouping by twos, fives, tens, or even hundreds. These groupings allow students to build deep conceptual understanding of place value, composition and decomposition of numbers, and multiplicative thinking. Way to go Dolphins!



Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

14800 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0865 • www.nlmusd.org

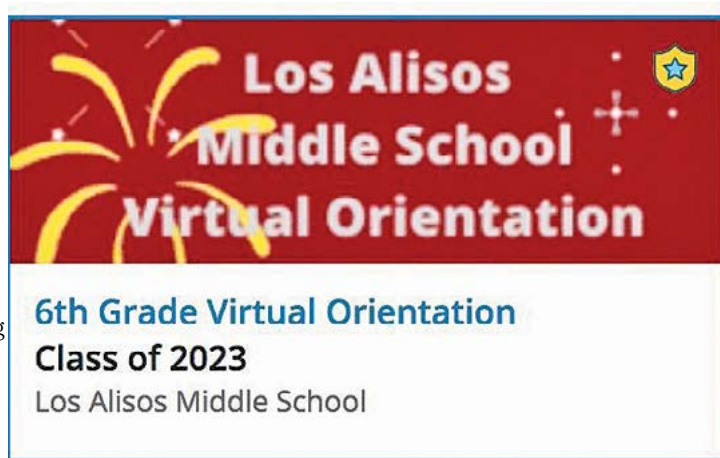


Dr. Majid Salehi
Principal

Los Alisos 6th Grade Virtual Orientation

Los Alisos Middle School welcomed the 6th grade class of 2023 by providing an asynchronous virtual orientation via Schoology course for incoming students to help them become better acclimated to distance learning and campus life as a member of the Lobo Pack!

The virtual orientation was designed in an interactive format using Schoology completion folders so ALL 6th grade students were able to engage themselves with live introductory videos from teachers and staff, a Quizziz review over key school rules and regulations, and live discussion boards with peers about how to better handle middle school!



But wait, there's more!!! Our Los Alisos School Counselors addressed social and emotional learning needs and how our newest Lobos could get help via Zoom and utilizing Google Forms during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students also covered "Tech-pretations," and how to appropriately navigate through

their iPad before the distance learning endeavor was up and running!

Through a team effort with administrators, ASB, 6th Grade Teachers, and other faculty members, our incoming 6th grade Lobos were surely geared up to have some virtual fun for year one!

Los Coyotes *MS Centurion Honors and Medical/Forensics Magnet*

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/739-2368 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Jacob Muñiz
Principal

Rising to the Occasion

As we patiently wait for the time to arrive when we will be able to have students join us again on campus at

Los Coyotes Middle School our staff works diligently on distance learning. Our team is doing everything they can to ensure that our students have a safe and positive learning environment. Centurions are amazingly high achieving individuals who persevere against all odds and always rise to the occasion.



Los Coyotes MS Staff ready to welcome students

Moffitt *Elementary School*

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-3071 • www.nlmusd.org



Rachelle Trigueros
Principal

Research Based Strategies

The Moffitt Mustangs are off to a roaring start! We are excited to continue our music and PE program which not only supports our students, but our teachers are able to plan as grade level professional learning communities (PLCs) weekly. This year, we

continue to implement research-based strategies to increase student engagement and learning. One daily routine we use is student “number talks” to develop student and class conversations. According to researchers Fosnot and Dolk (2002), the purpose of conversation is to support and direct the development of mathematicians in the classroom learning community, rather than fixing mistakes in the children’s work. We look forward to creating

students who love learning by partnering with our parents, district, and community in every subject to make this our best year yet!



Mrs. Cowan’s third graders discuss their Math thinking during their Number Talk.

Morrison *Elementary School*

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9878 • www.nlmusd.org



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

Morrison Receives the P.B.I.S. Community Cares Medal

The announcement of school closures due to the pandemic across the country was a trying time for all. The staff, students, community members and parents came together at Morrison to support all during these times. Morrison worked with the community to help in many different ways. Teachers supported their students in various ways including virtual fieldtrips,

personal messages, and picture collages. Our ESSS provided parents and students with resources addressing mental health and social emotional learning during the pandemic. The staff and administrators passed out hot spots and iPads to our families. Morrison is one of the sites that is being used as centralized location for food distribution. It is because of these efforts that Morrison Elementary was a recipient of the P.B.I.S. community cares medal for the 2019-2020 school year. Morrison will continue to support the community through and beyond the pandemic.



Morrison food distribution site hard at work.

New River *Elementary School*

13432 S. Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9848 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Reanna Mendoza
Principal

Knights are Safe, Respectful and Responsible

The New River community has shown great resolve as we have kicked off Distance Learning this fall. Families, staff and students have worked collaboratively

to address the new demands of Distance Learning. As always, our school community is focusing on our school-wide behavior expectations: Knights are SAFE, RESPECTFUL, and RESPONSIBLE. We've adjusted



these expectations to apply to our new virtual classroom settings and our online activity. Each Wednesday, students and teachers gather via Zoom for Wellness Wednesday assemblies that focus on social-emotional learning and school-wide expectations. We enjoy using brain builders as a fun way to deepen our learning of how to be SAFE, RESPECTFUL and RESPONSIBLE in Zoom and online. Together, we will continue to navigate our new environment in a positive way.

Together, we will stay connected and enjoy our school community from a distance in new and unique ways.

Norwalk High School

11356 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. David M. Olea
Principal

Off to a Productive Start

Norwalk High School's 2020-21 school year is off to a productive start as we embark on this new journey of distance learning. Our students, teachers, staff members and families have navigated these uncharted waters with creativity,

resiliency and grace. The NHS family remains focused and dedicated in providing high quality instruction and developing supportive relationships with the students and families we serve. Our vision remains focused on preparing our students to enter the world as global citizens with 21st century skills.

Aside from all our amazing Pathways, Programs, and

Activities, we are excited to share that the construction of our new athletic fields with synthetic turf installation & field buildings is scheduled to be completed in the month of December. We are looking forward to the day that our students and community can enjoy our new facilities with joy and pride!



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 NLMUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 30, 2020

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Halloween Word Search Contest

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| BLACK CAT | JACK O LANTERN |
| CANDY | MUMMY |
| CARVE | SKELETON |
| CEMETERY | SPIDER |
| COSTUME | SWAMP CREATURE |
| DECORATIONS | TRICK OR TREAT |
| FRANKENSTEIN | VAMPIRE |
| FRIGHTFUL | WEB |
| GHOST | WEREWOLF |
| GHOUL | WITCH |
| GRAVE | ZOMBIE |
| HAUNTED HOUSE | |
| HALLOWEEN | |



Congratulations to **Daniel Gonzalez** — Winner of our previous Word Search Contest!

Nuffer *Elementary School*

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3788 • www.nlmusd.org



Makara Sar
Principal

Connecting with Student Families

It has never been more important to connect with our Nuffer student families. We strive to meet the needs of our community during Distance Learning and provide opportunities for parent voice and input. Currently we are gathering parent nominations for School Site Council (SSC) and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

At the start of the year, Principal Sar reached out to parents with Zoom Parent Meetings to provide important information and answer questions about the Distance Learning process. Teachers and support staff prepared packets that included library books, independent work, and even snacks for families to pick up before school started. Nuffer support staff continues to provide office hours and

weekly packets so parents can get work throughout the week. Daily, teacher hold synchronous classes, make phone calls, reach out with emails, and provide office hours. Our administration, intervention counselor and office staff call families to offer to help with attendance and social-emotional needs.

How else does Nuffer Elementary STEAM Academy support student needs? Administration provided training for all paraprofessionals to work in Zoom Breakout Rooms with small groups and collaborate on learning goals for our students with special needs. We love our Nuffer Community; Future Ready, Our Promise!

Please view the Nuffer Elementary STEAM Academy website:

https://www.nufferelementary.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=331779&type=d&pREC_ID=740087



Sanchez *Elementary School*

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/926-2365 • www.nlmusd.org



Alicia Rubio
Principal

Working Together for a Great Beginning

Sanchez Elementary is a great place to be, both physically and online. Our community is willing to do whatever it takes to provide a quality education program for our students. Our team has been taking classes and working with each other to understand the different educational platforms the students will need to learn best. Teachers are developing engaging, standards-based lessons to continue providing a rigorous and meaningful learning experience for all students. Our classified staff has worked hard to ensure students receive the materials and textbooks they need and are continually available to help students and parents online with any technology issues they might have. The team is also providing each other trainings to support students during the classroom instruction. Our cafeteria staff is providing breakfast and lunch meals every Monday and Wednesday that provides our students with breakfast and

lunch meals for the weeks. Our amazing PTA has also been working hard to provide support in additional materials and supplies that may be unusual and needed by teachers, students and staff. By working together, we have been able to provide some meaningful online activities including a Virtual Kindergarten Welcome for new students and parents, kindergarten and 1st grade parent digital training classes, Zoom classes for parents and staff, classes that help parents better understand why their children use I-Ready as well as various others workshops. By the way, all our workshops have been offered in English as well as Spanish. In addition, we offer optional daily recess for any students who wish to join. Students can play games and exercise during their morning and lunch recesses with the exception of Fridays when we will provide our customary Fun Fridays music and dancing, though they will be online for now. Sanchez truly has an amazing community. It's no wonder the teachers, who created the above graphic, used such great words to describe the beginning of this school year!

Southeast Academy *High School*

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/809-6237 • www.nlmusd.org



MSgt. Marty Schaefer
USMC, Director

Challenge is Good

The Southeast Academy High School Creed was developed by our Southeast Academy Cadets.

The creed defines cadets' responsibilities at Southeast Academy High School. Their goal is to impress upon cadets that challenge is good, in fact it will make you stronger. The creed underwrites cadets will work as a team towards excellence. It also reinforces not to compromise your integrity, or moral courage. Cadets are required to memorize the Southeast Academy Creed; seniors will recite the creed at their final inspection.

The Southwest Academy High School Creed:

"Excellence Is Our Standard"

As cadets at Southeast Academy High School we

Will never settle for achieving merely what is expected of us.

We will strive for a standard of excellence that reflects the dedication and courage of those who have gone before us

It is our responsibility to develop a selfless sense of duty that demands excellence from ourselves and those we lead.

When we attain our goal, we will raise our expectations, when we fall short, we will be relentless in our pursuit of excellence We will work as a team, lead by example and inspire other to do so.

As cadets we have countless challenges before us, yet we believe that those who succeed at meeting those challenges will have the strongest moral foundation and thus best reflect the legacy of Southeast Academy High School

"Failure Is Not An Option"

Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-7981 • www.nlmusd.org



Adriana Nakano
Principal

Welcome to Pantherland!

Waite Middle School is ready to serve the Norwalk community.

Health on Wheels-Waite is hosting the Health on Wheels Medical Van.

Parents are able to make appointments for their children. Being up to

date with vaccinations is important in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and being ready for school.



ASES CLUB-During Distance Learning, students from Norwalk Middle Schools along with their elementary siblings are able to attend an all-day child care and receive supplemental services at Waite! The program begins at 7am to 6pm. Students receive support with their school work and healthy meals during the day while practicing physical distancing.

Despite the obstacles we are currently facing, Waite is making every effort to assist our families. GO PANTHERS! WHOOP! WHOOP!

BOARD OF EDUCATION • *From Page 4*

is not easy. We also know that there are many who cannot stay home to watch their children because their work requires them to be on site. Some may be first responders or are considered essential workers in our communities. For all of you, we are thankful and we hold you in our thoughts and prayers. Please be safe and remember to take time out of your day to just be a family. Family is everything! We will get through this if we all continue to work as a family. We are Team Norwalk-La Mirada! Thank you and have a wonderful year!

Serving you humbly,



Jude Cazares
President

entendemos que muchos de ustedes, padres, han tenido que hacer un gran sacrificio al tratar de trabajar y enseñar a sus hijos en casa. Nuestros hogares se han convertido en nuestros lugares de trabajo y aprendizaje, y esto no es fácil. También sabemos que hay muchos que no pueden quedarse en casa para cuidar a sus hijos porque su trabajo requiere que estén en el sitio de trabajo. Algunos pueden ser socorristas o ser considerados trabajadores esenciales en nuestras comunidades. Para todos ustedes, estamos agradecidos y los mantenemos en nuestros pensamientos y oraciones. Por favor manténgase seguro y recuerde de tomar tiempo de su día para solo ser una familia. ¡La familia lo es todo! Saldremos de esto si todos continuamos trabajando en familia. ¡Somos el Equipo Norwalk-La Mirada! ¡Gracias y que tengan un año maravilloso!

Humildemente a su servicio,



SUPERINTENDENT • *From Page 3*



John M. Lopez
Superintendent

Nuestro distrito continúa avanzando gracias al apoyo y la visión de la Junta de Educación, además de las asociaciones que hemos establecido para garantizar que Norwalk-La Mirada continúe ayudando a nuestros estudiantes, familias, y comunidades.

Cada estudiante. Preparado para el futuro. ¡Nuestra promesa!