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# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

7th Annual Edition

Covering the  
Los Angeles County  
Public Schools K-12  
Superintendents

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



This is our 7th Edition  
highlighting each of the district  
superintendents in the Los Angeles  
County K-12 public schools. Our  
mission is to introduce each  
superintendent with their brief  
message to encourage you to visit  
their individual web sites for indepth  
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Dr. Arturo Delgado  
Superintendent

I am pleased to welcome you to *School News Roll Call's* Los Angeles County Superintendents Issue for 2014-15.

In this special annual edition, you will find valuable information about your own community school districts, as well as their achievements and efforts to provide the best education for our students. In addition, as you browse these pages, you will also learn about your many neighboring districts and sample some of the rich diversity that is Los Angeles County public education.

There are 80 K-12 school districts spread across 4,000 square miles of our county. The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) serves all those districts and their 1.6 million students. We do this in many ways.

As mandated by the state Legislature, LACOE certifies the financial health of individual districts and works with them to correct any budgetary problems. We also help districts save, and safeguard, their money through the cost-effective delivery of essential administrative and business services.

LACOE will now play a key role in the rollout and implementation of Gov. Jerry Brown's new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) programs, assisting districts as they develop and manage budgets in accordance with the new state guidelines on funding.

We also educate the country's most vulnerable students, annually providing direct classroom instruction for more than 15,000 young people, including children with severe disabilities, juvenile offenders and others at high risk of dropping out or with unique needs.

In addition, LACOE reaches out to students, families and communities with early childhood programs, parenting and literacy classes, as well as job development services. The centerpiece of our school-readiness efforts is the state's largest Head Start-State Preschool program, serving more than 11,000 preschool children and their families.

LACOE plays an important role in turning around low-performing schools and ensuring compliance with federal and state laws, providing districts with technical assistance and intervention/support strategies.

Districts turn to LACOE for state-of-the-art technology services and specialized training and professional development for teachers and school administrators.

And, with that, let me yield to our distinguished district superintendents to tell their own stories.

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# Schools for 21st Century Learners



Dr. Mary Sieu  
Superintendent

ABC Unified School District is comprised of ten preschools, 30 schools and serves over 21,000 (K-12) ethnically diverse students in the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Norwalk. Our Adult School serves an additional 14,000 adult learners in the region. As Superintendent of this award winning District, I am honored to be a part of its rich history of academic achievement and innovative partnerships. The District continues its commitment to raise student achievement with a dedicated staff, engaged parents and hard working students. Our strong collaborative partnerships with our employee organizations, local businesses, PTAs, colleges, and civic groups help to advance our mission.

The mission of ABC Unified School District is to develop a community of life long learners, creative thinkers, and responsible individuals by providing innovative and high quality educational programs in a safe and supportive environment.

The District offers an array of educational options for students and families to participate in. This includes sixteen thematic magnet schools, a dual language immersion program, STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Programs, an IB World School, bi-literacy programs, international exchange programs with Pacific Rim countries and visual and performing arts classes at every level. Technology is transforming our classrooms where 1:1 mobile devices are being implemented in several of the schools.

We are proud of our numerous National Blue Ribbon School Awards, California Distinguished Schools, thirteen Golden Bell Awards from CSBA, Seal of Excellence Award from CAFE, and California Business for Educational Excellence Honor Roll.

The District maintains a sharp focus on teaching and learning to ensure that “every student, in every classroom, every day” is provided a world class education.

# Commitment to Excellence



Dr. Laura Tellez-Gagliano  
Superintendent

Through the collaborative efforts of supportive School Board members; experienced and dedicated administration, faculty, and staff; and concerned and involved parents the Alhambra Unified School District is committed to preparing students to meet the demands of a changing world and of challenging them to attain their full potential. Through improvement of student performance, mastery of identified competencies, and by ensuring that a safe environment for both students and staff exists, the district reflects this commitment to excellence.

We achieve success by meeting every student’s needs and encompass components that strengthen our programs.

Technology plays a vital role in realizing this mission. In Alhambra, technology is incorporated throughout the curriculum. We are supported by district advocates and community members.

By strategically focusing on the individual’s challenge areas that need to be enhanced, our teachers work cohesively to build strong curriculums and lesson plans to support our students. We embrace all of our students’ needs and aspirations. Along with a strong academic emphasis, Alhambra provides several extracurricular opportunities that help shape and enlighten our students.

One of our strengths is that our community is culturally diverse. This opportunity affords our students real life experiences that help prepare them to be successful in a global society. Our students leave our schools ready to succeed in college and in their careers. Alhambra Unified School District sets the foundation for all of our students to attain their full potential and to lead successful, happy lives!

# Catalyst for Positive Change



Dr. Brent Woodard  
Superintendent

Beginning with the end in mind, my priority as Superintendent of Acton-Agua Dulce School District is to serve as a catalyst for positive change. Our district is on the brink of a new era, with a renewed spirit that nothing is impossible! This fresh vision is founded on our community’s century old traditions, strengthened by a fervent belief that each child is entitled to a quality education that seeks the truth in knowledge and promotes a better human understanding.

Our developing district, which serves a vast rural area of over 200 square miles, offers an innovative Virtual Learning Academy, two celebrated Elementary Schools, a nationally recognized Middle School and a prominent comprehensive High School. To enhance school culture, our successful district wide Project Friendship program addresses specific strategies to empower students on the playground and in the classroom. Our Congressional Medal of Honor Core Values Education program encourages students to meet their highest level of achievement, while demonstrating a caring and respectful attitude.

At AADUSD we believe that parent communication and involvement is essential to providing a working dialogue to meet the needs of all students. Unlike traditional parent involvement activities that emphasize passive support roles for families (e.g., volunteer, fundraiser), partnerships involve families and educators working together as active, equal partners who share responsibility for the learning and success of all students. The more continuity between home and school, the greater success children are likely to experience.

Building a foundation of trust and communication between stakeholders is what we strive for at Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District. We know with certainty that with a common vision of student success, the many paths of learning created will result in one standard of excellence.

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# Innovative and Creative Spirit



**Dr. David J. Vierra**  
*Superintendent*

The Antelope Valley, which includes the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, is the home of some of the most innovative aerospace developments that have occurred in this century. Our District has embraced the creative spirit that prevails in the Antelope Valley.

Antelope Valley Union High School District prides itself in providing a safe and secure environment where a diverse student population can develop the skills necessary to perform effectively in a technological, information-based society. With a focus on school-to-careers, our District strives to determine what skills are necessary for our students to master to be effective as adults.

To this end, the District aggressively pursues continuous improvement in the structure of curriculum to reflect not only high academic standards but also relevancy to real-world application. Our District believes that the best school-to-career preparation a student can receive is a rigorous and relevant academic program. To support our curriculum improvements, an extensive staff-development program has been implemented to provide training for staff members in the use of technology in the classroom as well as innovative classroom teaching strategies.

From special-population students to the most gifted students, our District has a program or academy that meets the personal and educational needs of all our students. Our District staff is proud of the fact that our students are given wonderful opportunities in preparation for their adult roles.

As a parent, I share your concerns for the quality of education being provided, the safety of our students and the future for our children. It is the concern for the education of all students which drives my vision for the future of the Antelope Valley Union High School District.

# A Long Tradition of Excellence



**Dr. Joel Shawn**  
*Superintendent*

Arcadia Unified continues to grow and flourish on our long tradition of excellence thanks to our outstanding students, teachers, staff, and community. We are pleased to be able to further support our community of learners and our educational goals as we near the completion of our \$218 million Measure I Facilities Bond that was passed in 2006 thanks to our generous community. This project has allowed us to provide a state-of-the-art educational experience throughout our entire district. Classrooms, lecture halls, and administrative buildings have been modernized with the latest technology. Our gyms and sports fields have been upgraded, and in many cases have brand new features and amenities. Our very distinguished and award-winning performing arts program now has a state-of-the-art performing arts center on campus that matches its sophistication and class.

Our students continue to be recognized for their impressive academic and other performance related accomplishments. Arcadia High School recently had 22 students named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. One of those students was one of just 11 in the world to earn a perfect score on the AP Calculus BC Exam. Our three middle schools earned three of the top four API scores in L.A. County.

Our talented teachers are leading the way with the implementation of Common Core. We are using 13 AUSD teachers as Common Core Coaches and Mentors for their colleagues and our parents. This team has done extensive research on Common Core, helped colleagues with curriculum and lesson planning, and organized very successful parent and community meetings.

# Come to Azusa—See Where You Will Go!



**Dr. Linda Kaminski**  
*Superintendent*

Azusa Unified School District provides a rigorous education that prepares students for college and careers. Middle school students can accelerate through advanced study and early high school courses. Advanced Placement courses begin in ninth grade. Our AVID program ensures college readiness for students at our middle and high schools. Last year, every AVID senior was accepted to a four-year college or university!

CHAMPS (College-Headly and Mighty Proud) provides fourth grade students with mentors who show how to plan for college. At the Majors Fair eighth graders learn about college majors from students at Azusa Pacific University and Citrus College.

Pathways in Health Science and Engineering will prepare students for high-demand careers. Partnerships with Azusa Pacific University and Northrop-Grumman provide mentoring and scholarships only available to our students. Our graduates attend prestigious colleges, including Azusa Pacific University, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Stanford, Yale, MIT, and Harvard.

Students, staff, and schools create these positive outcomes. Our District Teacher of the Year became a finalist for California's State Teacher of the Year. Five students were Gates Millennium scholars. Paramount Elementary's intervention program earned a Golden Bell Award. The Northrop-Grumman partnership, Link Crew, and the Mural Art program have also received a Golden Bell. Elective courses, including robotics, award-winning music programs, drama, fine arts, and JROTC enrich student learning. Technology is integral to our students' education. We are one of the few districts in the nation to offer the highly successful computer-based ST (Spatial-Temporal) Math program at all of our elementary and middle schools.

**Come to Azusa – See Where You Will Go!**

# Many Milestones Reached



**Mark M. Skvarna**  
*Superintendent*

After thirteen years of service as Superintendent of the Baldwin Park Unified School District, I announced my retirement earlier this year. During my tenure, the District has gone through many changes, reached many milestones, and made it through the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. While keeping the District solvent, we maintained Class Size Reduction and boasted higher student achievement, increasing test scores at all school sites by an average of 135 points over the last ten years, and increased graduation rates for an average of 87.6%.

In the last 13 years, BPUSD obtained funding in excess of \$115 million by way of State and Federal Grants, State and Federal Matching Funds, as well as \$31.2 million in Federal E-Rate Funding. These funds and resources have been utilized for the construction and renovation of facilities districtwide, including new state-of-the-art facilities at North Park High, Sierra Vista High, and Baldwin Park High. The District is delighted with its modernized athletic fields and stadiums at both comprehensive high schools, which brought a new sense of pride not only to our students and staff, but also to our community.

In an age where adult education programs are being cut throughout the state, BPUSD's Adult and Community Education Program has expanded its services to include a highly reputable Culinary Arts Program, as well as two new state-of-the-art Auto Centers. These programs have increased Technical and Vocational Programs throughout our community.

I have been blessed to work with a phenomenal Board of Education, Administrators, Teachers and Classified staff. These are their accomplishments and I thank them for allowing me to be part of this journey.

# The Best Education Available



**Jose Luis Reynoso, Jr.**  
*Superintendent*

Bassett will lead the Nation. In Bassett, we have a moral duty to educate the children and students of our community from toddlers to adult Learners. Every day and every hour, our staff is committed to the advancement and preparation of our students so ultimately it will be said that they have become the graduates of the best colleges, universities and training schools anywhere in our country. In Bassett, we know that our students are bright and brilliant. We know that it is our duty to prepare them for success and happiness in America.

Bassett has been proactive in preparing for the Common Core State Standards with much more work to be done. We are currently involved in the unveiling of the LFCC and the LCAP. Our stakeholders will soon be fluent in these concepts. We know that this new focus on local control and accountability will take us to even higher levels of professionalism on behalf of our community. Our community will push us higher, so that their children will receive only the best education available.

Our new board members have committed themselves to stability and accountability, as well. They have partnered with staff for the goodness of all on behalf our community.

Regularly, it has been said that Bassett is a “diamond in the rough.” Bassett USD is almost a gem now! Come and visit us and see how we educate children, students and adults. You won’t find a district that serves so genuinely anywhere else.

# Standard of Excellence



**Dr. Brian Jacobs**  
*Superintendent*

Bellflower Unified School District continues its efforts to provide the “Standard of Excellence” for every student and family served. A critical link to the success of BUSD students and schools is that of our administrative team. It is important that each school site and district level administrator provide a unique opportunity to re-invent practices and consider new possibilities in procedures, instruction, and relationships.

Leadership expectations are rigorous for the administrative team of BUSD. Those expectations are contained within the following principles.

- 1) Lead with “WHY”
- 2) Lead with CHARACTER
- 3) Lead & Operate as a Team
- 4) Lead with Accountability
- 5) Enjoy Work & Have Fun

To date, District leadership has diligently worked to implement many improvements to physical structures and instructional operations since the passage of a first ever General Obligation Bond last November. The Bond Measure will provide:

- Expanding District vocational education programs/facilities including welding, automotive technology, medical and health technology, and construction trades.
- Upgrading classrooms with up-to-date computers and technology.
- Repairing aging school classrooms /facilities throughout the District.
- Upgrading and improving physical education facilities and programs.

It is an exciting time to be part of BUSD, and my promise to District staff and community members is to provide an outstanding and award winning school District. We are blessed with great kids, supportive parents and community, along with a caring staff. Those ingredients are all part of the recipe for “Excellence!”



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**Deana Porterfield**  
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# Meeting Our Goals



**Dr. Jan A. Britz**  
*Superintendent*

In the Burbank Unified School District, goals are focused on student achievement, accountability, and parent engagement. The District continues to maintain high-performing schools and quality teaching and learning programs for all students. Students have a number of educational options that address various interests and are suited to an array of academic needs, such as:

- On-line classes for initial credit and credit recovery
- Spanish dual-immersion program at the elementary level
- Junior Kindergarten that begins the second-half of the school year for children who turn 5 years of age between December 1 and December 31

- Continuation high school for grades 10-12
- Regionalized Special Education programs for specialized support for students with significant disabilities
- Response to Intervention program standardized at all elementary schools for students who are below grade level

This year the District has provided a robust professional development program for all teachers on Common Core, student engagement, and best practices in subject matter content. Another critical component of our professional development is teacher collaboration.

All schools have plans to revamp technology infrastructure in order to install WiFi and accommodate 21st Century tools in classrooms. Other technologies used by students and teachers are assessment software to measure academic progress, incorporation of mobile devices, and digital instructional materials. Classrooms are being converted to a 21st Century learning environment.

# Meeting the Challenge!



**Dr. Gary Woods**  
*Superintendent*

The Beverly Hills Unified School District is the cornerstone of the Beverly Hills community. With a 2013 district API of 890, the BHUSD remains committed to effective teaching and learning aimed at the achievement of high standards by all students.

In collaboration with students, parents, and community stakeholders, we pride ourselves on providing students with an exceptional educational experience. Countless individuals have contributed to a long tradition of excellence and have given freely of their resources, time, and expertise to promote a climate of excellence and to further our mission to inspire and empower each student to achieve academic excellence, embrace social and individual responsibility, and lead with integrity. To these ends, the BHUSD provides dynamic and enriching educational opportunities, collaborative community partnerships, and challenging and supportive learning environments. We are particularly proud of a new 6th grade STEM program implemented this year and a plan to expand the program into a comprehensive 6-8 program next year.

Our students must be prepared to meet challenges on a global level. Through disciplined leadership, teamwork, collaboration, focus, and planning, the BHUSD is committed to maintaining and improving a culture that values effective teaching and learning and an instructional program that supports it.

# Student Progress is Our Business



**Dr. Gary Rapkin**  
*Superintendent*

Bonita Unified School District educates nearly 10,000 children in eight elementary schools, two middle schools and three high schools.

At BUSD, we believe “student progress is our business.” In order to effectively serve the communities in our District, we believe every employee, from teachers and administrators to classified and confidential staff, must work together as a team toward a common vision for student success.

It is the efforts of the entire BUSD community that allow us to continue to strive for excellence, find new ways to work effectively and finally, help each and every student gain access to their dreams.

## Committed to Academic Excellence

The results of such hard work and dedication by our staff are evident in the success of our students, who have been consistently recognized for their achievements in the arts, athletics as well as academics. One example is how our students’ consistent increases in test scores resulted in the District earning an 873 on the California State Academic Performance Index, with three schools over 900. Nine out of twelve eligible schools in Bonita Unified School District have been named California Distinguished Schools, representing 75% of our schools. One of our elementary schools is a National Blue Ribbon School.

Here at Bonita Unified School District, we pride ourselves on our commitment to academic excellence and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed. For the students in our care, and in partnership with the community, we strive to create a safe, challenging and comprehensive learning environment that not only shapes our students’ characters, but also encourages them to be the best they can be in school and throughout the rest of their lives.

# A Commitment to Excellence



**James M. Gibson**  
*Superintendent*

The Castaic Union School District has a very simple vision: “A Commitment to Excellence!” We believe the District should provide children with a rigorous education supported by a safe and nurturing environment that maximizes student learning and achievement. To support this mission and vision, the Castaic Union School District has developed specific core values that support teamwork, collaboration, and sharing responsibility and decision-making. The District values setting high academic and achievement standards, nurturing and caring for the whole child, respecting individual diversity, striving for personal best, building positive character traits and having the courage to stand by one’s convictions.

Over the past four years, the District has followed a road focused directly on 21st Century Teaching and Learning. This road has emphasized a total immersion into the CORE of 21st Century Skills, the 4 “Cs,” which encompass Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity & Innovation. This overarching focus and direction has led to a new District Strategic Plan under construction for the 2014-2015 school year. The Strategic Plan, with 21st Century Learning at its core, combined with a recently passed School Bond (Measure QS), the direct influence of the Common Core State Standards, Smarter Balanced Assessments, and our overwhelming “Commitment to Excellence,” will provide a solid foundation and purposeful direction for District growth and academic improvement over the next five years.

The district is committed to preparing students to become critical thinkers in addition to innovative and creative individuals who communicate effectively and collaborate to produce outstanding results!



# CVHUSD Leads the Way



Jose A. Fernandez  
Superintendent

Centinela Valley Union High School District’s unprecedented gains in student achievement in recent years have reinforced the district’s organizational commitment to continuous improvement and sustainable change.

Given the district’s long time focus on academy-based education, as evidenced by its industry partnerships and multiple grant awards for college and career readiness programs, CVUHSD has become a model district for the national movement towards common standards and career and technical education.

With a wide range of career academies, CVUHSD advances student opportunities by developing programs that respond to changes in labor markets. Connection pathways extend well beyond industry however, connecting students to post-secondary opportunities through college promise partnerships with institutions as diverse as UCLA, CSUDH, and El Camino College, among others.

The strength of CVUHSD’s relationship with its community is reflected in the large scale construction projects completed or currently underway funded by local self-imposed taxes. Under the leadership of the Superintendent, Jose A. Fernandez, CVUHSD boasts state of the art facilities that are equal to its programs.

Leuzinger, Hawthorne, and Lawndale High Schools continue to thrive in the midst of a renaissance, highlighted by the International Baccalaureate Diploma program at Hawthorne and the Advanced Academic Academy at Leuzinger. CVUHSD also leverages technology to advance its instructional program options with a one-to-one iPad program.

Centinela Valley Center for the Arts, the centerpiece of the Lawndale campus, has grown to become the hub of the local arts community, housing numerous school, professional theater, and community functions. The success of the facility enriches the lives of the entire community.

# A Comprehensive Approach



Dr. James Elsasser  
Superintendent

Claremont High School is implementing the International Baccalaureate Career Certificate (IBCC) program to provide a comprehensive framework to Career Technical Education. The program addresses the needs of high school students whose career-related interests can be enhanced with a focused set of academic classes connected through community service and a reflective project. Students are prepared for college by requiring six rigorous classes across all disciplines, inquiry-based learning to develop life-long learning skills, and an international focus.

Claremont High School considers the IBCC as a way to enable and encourage more students to have the experience of the IB program while developing a career focus.

Unlike traditional career education, the program combines career-related pathways with a required service component in the field of interest and a capstone class. The service component exposes students to workplace situations and helps students develop technical skills. The required *Approaches to Learning* class provides students with structured curriculum that combine classroom experiences with community service. In this class, students are supported to reflect upon enduring workplace skills. They learn to work with people much different from themselves, find ways to acquire knowledge in a work environment, and explore traits required of an exemplary employee.

At Claremont High School one path students may choose would be to pair the traditional Tech Theatre/Stage Tech career pathway with the IB Theatre and IB Music classes. The IB classes will challenge the student to write and analyze at a rigorous level in an area of high interest, while the pathway classes will provide the student with the practical skills. The community service component, which can be done by working on a school-based production, will provide the student with the practical experience of working with others in the chosen field of interest.

# A Commitment to Excellence



Dr. Mike Hendricks  
Superintendent

The Charter Oak Unified School District, in collaboration with our families and community, provides a balanced, quality educational experience that meets the physical, intellectual and emotional needs of all students. Our focus is providing students with the skills needed to adapt to a changing world, equipping them for college, career choices, and life choices. We offer a rigorous and comprehensive education that meets the individual academic needs of our students and prepares them to be socially responsible adults who make positive contributions to the global community. We embrace individual differences and create safe learning environments in which educational integrity and character are our cornerstones.

Charter Oak demonstrates a commitment to excellence with outstanding programs, services and increased achievement on a number of indicators. Charter Oak High School continues to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma and AVID programs. The District has six California Distinguished Schools and 2 Title I High Achieving Schools.

Charter Oak has also become a destination for co-curricular opportunities for students in award winning sports, music, band, and visual and performing arts programs. It is home of CIF Champions, a BRAVO Award winning dramatic arts teacher and a Golden Bell Award winning English program. Students engage in community service and outreach projects at all levels. They work with Rotary International; the Operation Santa Clothes program; the “Blankets of Love” campaign for the City of Hope and other area hospitals; and the “Remembrance Walk” to raise money for student scholarships while remembering cancer victims.

Charter Oak is home to the unique Oak Knoll Virtual Academy (OKVA) that serves K-12 students residing in Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern, Orange, or San Bernardino Counties with a comprehensive academic program. Students take all their required courses online facilitated by a high quality teaching staff. OKVA enables truly individualized learning and flexibility in pace, schedule, and learning styles.

# Changing Compton from Good to Great



Darin Brawley  
Superintendent

Compton Unified School District’s (CUSD) Superintendent Darin Brawley has led with urgency to implement Common Core Standards, train instructors in best practices, improve facilities, and develop new partnerships to provide quality educational programs.

Bold reinvention through Common Core is at the heart of Compton’s continuing efforts to boost student achievement. Those efforts are paying off.

Last year several schools scored over 800 points on the 2012-13 Academic Performance Index (API) including California Distinguished Schools like Laurel Street, Bunche, and Bursch elementary schools.

Students are now being challenged through rigorous STEM projects and increased access to arts education.

While school districts statewide continue to struggle, CUSD’s cost-saving measures have resulted in its first balanced budget in over a decade. With a focus on fiscal solvency, Compton Unified School District is no longer deficit spending.

Now more than ever the District is making every effort to collaborate with parents as they forge a new path towards greater academic excellence. Superintendent Brawley is reaching out to families through community forums designed to inform and empower parents.

For Superintendent Brawley, there is no time to waste as he and his dedicated staff work hard to prepare every student for college or trade tech, and the careers of the future. It’s full steam ahead as Compton Unified continues its transformation from good to great.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Compton Unified School District is to empower leaders to lead, teachers to teach, and students to learn by fostering an environment that encourages leaders and teachers to be visionary, innovative and accountable for the achievement of all students.

# Creating Extraordinary Futures!



**Dr. Catherine Nichols**  
Superintendent

Covina-Valley Unified School District is committed to preparing students to meet the future! Students meet their future with confidence, possessing the academic competencies and life skills to critically think, create, persevere, and flourish in a technically complex and globally connected world.

Community support is a hallmark of Covina-Valley Unified. Students will benefit from the \$129,000,000 bond that was passed with 73.1% of the vote! Our plans include:

- Building a new performing arts theater
- Technology permeating all schools, reaching all students
- New athletic facilities including pools and a football stadium
- High tech science labs and updated classrooms

This bond will be used to support the rigorous learning opportunities our students experience to achieve at the highest levels. Graduates attend colleges and universities across the country, United States Military Academies, and Ivy League schools. They get their foundation through our robust programs including:

- Technology Academy offering Project Lead the Way for Engineering
- Fine Arts, Media, and Entertainment Academy (FAME)
- Finance and Business Academy enhanced with Chinese language classes
- International Baccalaureate Program (IB)
- Vocational Trade Center is in development for pathways in carpentry, welding, and HVAC systems

Success builds upon success and the positive results of hard work by teachers, administrators, and support staff is apparent throughout our schools. We are proud of our California Distinguished Schools, Title I Achieving School, Model Continuation High School, Golden Bell Award Winning Schools, National Hispanic Scholars, and National Merit Scholars!

Visit us for a tour!

# Ensuring High Levels of Learning



**Dave LaRose**  
Superintendent

Ensuring high levels of learning for all students is our fundamental purpose – it is why we exist, it is why we matter. This is the “why” of our work. “*Success for All Takes US ALL*” is our district “touchstone” – a clear concise statement to unite us around our organizational purpose. We like to think of it as putting the US in CCUSD!

This statement is seen and heard throughout our district. More importantly, it is our goal for this statement to be felt at our schools, in our classrooms, in our board meetings and at our community events. Success for All Takes US ALL speaks to why we exist and how we can best serve our purpose – together. In order for ALL of our students to succeed and learn at high levels, we need to communicate and cooperate; share our gifts, talents and resources; develop creative ideas and solutions to remove any and all barriers to learning.

“School systems are not responsible for meeting every need of their students. But when the need directly affects learning, the school must meet the challenge.” (Carnegie Task Force on Education of Young Adolescents). Our touchstone accepts and embraces this challenge. We are redefining the traditional, narrow vision of a “school system” to a more cooperative, inclusive vision that purposefully enlists the entire community. When a child struggles – for any reason – we must meet the challenge. If the need, the crisis, or the hurt impedes our ability to ensure learning, then we must rally together to remove the barrier. “Success for All Takes US ALL” is much more than a clever, six-word statement – it’s our call to action!

# Our Students Deserve Our Best



**Dr. John A. Garcia, Jr.**  
Superintendent

Our district is located approximately 12 miles south of Los Angeles within driving distance of scenic mountains and beaches.

For decades, our schools have enjoyed the reputation of an outstanding school system. Downey Unified School District has been recognized with distinguished State honors for its high performance. Our Academic Performance (API) scores are readily available on the internet at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov). You are also welcome to schedule a visit to any DUSD school. We know you will be impressed with the safe, learning-centered environment and top quality instruction you will encounter on all our campuses.

In addition to our strong academic program, we offer the nationally recognized CHARACTER COUNTS! program districtwide. This character education program, which is integrated into academics, discipline, and athletics, is based upon the following six pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

All of our schools have been renovated in recent years to include state-of-the-art technology as well as first-rate athletic facilities. We provide a full range of programs for students with individual needs including GATE, AVID, and Title I. Our K-8 campuses now offer ASPIRE, a free after-school, academic childcare program that runs until 6:00 p.m. and some sites offer YMCA childcare before and after school.

On behalf of the Board of Education and our employees, I welcome you to visit the Downey Unified School District.

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# What is Our Story?



Dr. Terry Nichols  
Superintendent

Duarte Unified School District is a LEAP district where student learning is engaging and adapted to the individual passions of our students.

**People**

The people of Duarte demonstrate their support by providing resources of time, service and monies. Community members spend countless hours volunteering in schools and throughout the city, and provided their financial support in passage of a \$62 million dollar bond.

**Purpose**

DUSD’s purpose is to provide students with the knowledge, skills and inspiration necessary for success in career and life. The *4 Cornerstones*: Student Success, 21st Century Facilities, High-Quality Staff, and Parent/Community Involvement are the foundation that provides the supportive environment necessary to create *Shoulder Tapped Graduates*. Success is measured by our graduates’ proven ability to work, lead, and make positive contributions to the world. Recognized as “Shoulder Tapped Graduates,” DUSD students are actively recruited by institutions of higher learning and outside organizations.

**Passion**

Duarte is special because the people possess the passion for the work and for the students we serve. There is excitement and an energy that provides a light in their eyes you will not experience in any other school district. Duarte is about people connected to a purpose and willing to follow their passion to ensure that all students are successful in life and vocation. There is not a better place to educate a child than in Duarte Unified Schools. Success is not by chance but is the direct result of the dedication of the Board of Education, community, parents and staff.

# Education and Student Success



Mary Branca  
Superintendent

East Whittier City School District is comprised of 13 schools with a diverse population. Our current student population is approximately 9200. We are dedicated to providing our students with a high quality of education and a safe environment. Our Board of Education is committed to making decisions that will help to maintain a high level of education and provide clean and safe school sites. One of our greatest resources is a staff that has been highly trained and who dedicate themselves to helping students achieve great success. All of the East Whittier City School Districts schools have API scores above 800. We consider all of our schools to be exemplary and we have several with the California Distinguished Schools title. In the effort to develop college ready students, our District has partnerships with community organizations to provide highly effective programs to meet the needs of all students. Our District works diligently to provide staff development trainings to our teachers. We will continue to focus on teaching and learning to ensure student success. Our District continues to successfully meet the challenges with new technology, new curriculum standards and new funding needs. We look forward to a promising future with the Governor’s new budget proposal.

Congratulations  
Class of 2014!



# Student Achievement at the Forefront



Dr. Mark Marshall  
Superintendent

The Eastside Union School District (EUSD) is a remarkable community and Student Achievement remains at the forefront of our work. Like most districts in the area, we are preparing for the implementation of the Common Core. Our *Professional Development Around the Common Core Series* has been well received by those participating in that work. Similarly, we have been striving to meet the needs of all of our students and their unique learning styles. For our advanced students, we are actively looking at the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Curricula as well as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). With regard to students needing acceleration opportunities, we have formed a Research Based Intervention Committee to identify Reading and Math acceleration programs, establish a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports System for the District. To that end, we were informed by the California Department of Education that Gifford C. Cole Middle School has been named a Project Read 180 Middle School. As hundreds of middle schools across the state were eligible for this grant, this is a huge honor for our school district and the resources gained from this initiative will be of great use to our students in the near future.

Also, we will soon be opening Enterprise Elementary, our newest school! Recently, our Board of Trustees approved the attendance boundaries and grade configuration for the new site. These moves will reduce the student populations at all of our existing elementary sites and in August transform our sole middle school into a 7-8 campus.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the EUSD has formed an African American Advisory Committee. This group which consists of local advocates, site and district administrators, community leaders, parents, and teachers is charged with identifying ways to assist us improving student learner outcomes for our students. These are indeed exciting times in the EUSD and we look forward to moving forward!

# Schools for 21st Century Learners



Dr. Maribel Garcia  
Superintendent

This is a very exciting time in the El Monte City School District! Implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) serve as a well-timed vehicle for us to facilitate and continue meaningful dialogues and plans about students’ learning environment, enhancing learning opportunities aligned with college and career readiness, and incorporating technology in inventive and creative ways — all essential for 21st Century learning. By working closely with our parents, community partners, neighboring districts, and our local colleges, we are building a navigable and seamless pathway to college for our students!

Our District has maintained valuable programs and enjoyed outstanding academic accomplishments. This year we continue with professional development that focuses on the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These new standards require students to engage what they learn and how they learn in ways that mimic “real-world” interactions with an eye toward an increasingly global economy and ever-changing technology. With computer labs, portable devices, and wireless access at every school, students of all levels are accessing and using technology for different purposes and as a vehicle to encourage reflection, inquiry, and collaboration with their peers, teachers, and the day to day curriculum.

Health and Wellness continues to be a district wide priority. EMCSD now has earned 3 of the 4 gold schools nationwide. We are currently providing our students with universal breakfast within the school day and continue to provide a quality wellness program that has received accolades and recognition from local, state and federal agencies.

I am grateful for the commitment of our students, parents, staff, community partners and board members! Together we will continue to plan and provide for a quality education in the 21st Century for our students.

## El Monte Union High School District

3537 Johnson Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731 • 626/444-9005 • emuhsd.org

# Massive Educational Changes



**Nick J. Salerno**  
*Superintendent*

The El Monte Union High School District has been working diligently to stay ahead of the curve of the massive changes to education in our state. This takes a concerted effort and teamwork among teachers, counselors, classified staff members, parents, administrators, community members, and board members. We have begun implementation of the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the focus on depth of learning and 21st Century skills. The new assessment system that will measure student growth relative to the CCSS is called the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Not only do we have new standards and coming assessments, we also have a new state system for public school funding, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). To align expenditures to the CCSS and student achievement goals, each district must develop and submit a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). While simultaneously addressing the above, new developments, we continue to see great growth in our students. More students are successfully completing a-g college admission requirements, more are participating in and earning passing scores in the Advanced Placement (AP) program, and students continue to shine in visual and performing arts, earning numerous recognitions in competitions and at the Los Angeles County Fair.

The highlight this year came via recognition from the College Board. The EMUHSD was recently named the top medium sized district in the entire nation for students participating and succeeding in the AP program. Kudos go to our students, teachers, families, support staff, and administrators for earning this national recognition. We continue to promote success for every student, every minute, every day.

## El Segundo Unified School District

641 Sheldon Street, El Segundo, CA 90245 • 310/615-2650 • www.elsegundousd.com

# Rigorous Goals



**Dr. Geoff Yantz**  
*Superintendent*

As both a former Principal and Assistant Superintendent, I have witnessed first-hand our community's unfailing commitment to the students and families of El Segundo. We are a small district of five schools and a preschool, but size does not inhibit the unlimited aspirations of those who serve the students in this community. El Segundo schools are modeled on the Professional Learning Community vision that collegiality, collaboration, and individual attention to each student's needs lays the groundwork necessary to ensure each student lives up to his or her full potential.

The Board of Education has established rigorous goals for superior educational programs that address the needs of all students, as well as created an environment that supports teachers and staff while providing the resources to guarantee the success of all district programs.

The community-at-large is an integral part of the success of our schools, as evidenced by the extensive school modernization program completed after the passage of multi-million dollar bond measures. Although two of our school sites were constructed during the 1920's and 1930's, the renovation process labored to preserve the history and architectural splendor of early El Segundo.

Each school site benefits from strong, effective Parent Teacher Associations, as well as the support of the El Segundo Educational Foundation that makes direct annual contributions to all schools in the district. We are especially proud of the district's close relationship with the City of El Segundo with whom we share a common vision for student success both academically and as productive community members.

## El Rancho Unified School District

9333 Loch Lomond Drive, Pico Rivera, CA 90660 • 562/942-1500 • www.erusd.12.ca.us

# 10 Years of API Growth



**Martin Galindo**  
*Superintendent*

The El Rancho Unified School District is celebrating 10 straight years of API growth and looking forward to the new Smarter Balanced Assessments as we fully implement Common Core.

The ERUSD Academic Decathlon Team has qualified for the state finals six years in a row. Our students continue to be selected to attend major four-year universities. As a result, there is an ERUSD graduate in each class from freshman to senior at Yale University. Our bond program is moving forward as we look to complete our new locker room/ pool project and culinary kitchen at ERHS within two years. Our Facilities Master Plan will be completed by September, 2014. At the same time, we are in the midst of an amazing transformation in public education-21st century skills, common core, linked learning. To prepare our students to thrive in these environments, the El Rancho Unified School District is partnering with Project Lead The Way and Cal Poly Pomona to bring innovative classes and programs focusing on STEM. We are creating the conditions for our students to engage and adapt by providing numerous learning opportunities to be creative, collaborate, communicate and think critically. With our partnership with Tri-Cities ROP, ERUSD is aligning our preschool, elementary, middle and high school learning environments with a focus on science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics that incorporates higher reading and writing skills.

ERUSD is committed to being a dynamic and innovative learning community that prepares each and every student for success now and in the future.

## Garvey School District

2730 No. Del Mar Avenue, Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3444 • www.garvey.k12.ca.us

# Goals for Achievement Paying Off



**Virginia Peterson**  
*Acting Superintendent*



**Dolores Preciado**  
*Acting Superintendent*

Garvey School District covers a four-square mile portion of Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel and an area of Los Angeles County known as South San Gabriel. The District has eight elementary and two intermediate schools serving more than 5200 K-8 students, with pre-school on each elementary school campus.

Student achievement is the top priority in the Garvey School District. These efforts are supported by a Board of Education that has focused the district with specific goals for increased achievement and closing the achievement gap. With a District API of 834 and nine out of ten schools well above the 800 mark and reaching 900, this work is showing strong results.

Garvey's students benefit from a dedicated and hard working staff that helps the students score significantly higher on the STAR tests. All teachers have received training and are implementing the Focused Adaptable Structured Teaching (FAST) Framework, a quality lesson design. The district also provides after school programs on each campus, full day kindergarten, transitional kindergarten, and class-size reduction in grades K-3. Each intermediate school provides take-home laptops for each student, honors classes, AVID, physical education, band and chorus.

The parents in Garvey participate in active PTA's at each school, many school events, and serve on numerous advisory committees. To provide additional services to families, Garvey works with many agencies in the community.



# Glendale Unified School District

223 North Jackson Street, Glendale, CA 91206 • 818/241-3111 • www.gusd.net

## Focused on Student Achievement



**Dr. Richard M. Sheehan**  
Superintendent

Glendale Unified School District is a leader in initiating reforms to increase student academic outcomes and remains the ideal choice for parents seeking an exceptional, accomplished school district that is accountable for student progress. Realtors and other major businesses continue to report that the reputation of the Glendale schools is often a motivating factor when moving to Glendale or the adjacent communities of La Crescenta and Montrose, located within the school district's boundaries.

This year, our District Academic Performance Index (API) increased from 858 to 861 points. With 85% of our 31 schools above 800 API, and nine schools scoring above 900 API, Glendale

Unified School District continues to be a leader in academic instruction and student academic outcomes. Twenty-four schools are California Distinguished schools, nine are National Blue Ribbon schools, and twelve are Title 1 Achieving schools. The Foreign Language Academy of Glendale (FLAG) offers programs, beginning in kindergarten, in Spanish, Korean, Armenian, German, Italian, Japanese and French. Extensive career and technical education (CTE) programs are offered at all of our high schools, including building construction, cosmetology, culinary arts, cinematography, public safety, robotics engineering, and biotechnology.

The district has many noteworthy qualities, among them experienced teachers, safe campuses, involved parents, college/career programs, innovative instructional programs, competitive test scores, and high student outcomes. Glendale public schools are committed to the highest quality instructional and support programs on campuses that are safe and secure. At Glendale, we prepare our students for their future.

# Gorman Joint School District

49847 Gorman School Rd., P.O. Box 104, Gorman, CA 93243 • 661/248-6441 <http://gorman.k12.ca.us>

## Individualized Nurturing Environment



**Johannis Andrews**  
Superintendent

The Gorman Joint School District is located at the southern tip of the beautiful Tehachapi Mountains, 60 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Gorman Joint School District has one K-8 school with 98 students and five teachers. The small size of Gorman Elementary School makes it possible to have an individualized nurturing environment in each classroom where the average class size is 20 students. Gorman Joint School District is a District of Choice where any parent can chose to enroll their children during an enrollment period. As such many families from surrounding districts enroll their children at Gorman to take advantage of the small school environment.

Gorman Elementary School is committed to improved levels of academic performance. Educating every student must be and will be our number one priority. We consistently strive to provide our students with a high quality education that appropriately meets their academic needs, but acknowledge that a quality experience must go beyond just the classroom. Our teachers are building on this success and have set a goal of becoming an 800 API school. Our dedicated teachers are committed to high levels of teaching and learning and are involved in professional development training designed to strengthen their teaching skills.

The Gorman School District is known for having a very supportive Board. The Board recently adopted five district goals that will help to propel the District forward toward our vision of academic success for each student. The mission of our District is to provide a challenging and rigorous educational experience for each of our students.

# Glendora Unified School District

500 North Loraine, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/963-1611 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us

## Enthusiasm for Student Success!



**Dr. Robert Voors**  
Superintendent

Long recognized as one of the premier school districts in the state, we are in a select group of districts that has consistently realized an API score of over 800 at all of our comprehensive schools. *The Washington Post*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Newsweek* each rank Glendora High School as one of the best high schools in the United States. Expectations are high – we believe all students can and will achieve. In a recent study by WestEd, we were identified as one of 30 high performing districts in California for raising the achievement of all students. Similarly, Education Trust-West ranked GUSD 4th in the state for closing the achievement gap.

Glendora is a District of Distinguished Schools where staff, students, parents, and community work together to provide a caring learning environment for all our students. Additional support is evident through our vibrant PTA, the Glendora Education Foundation, various community service groups and extensive volunteerism.

In addition to world class academics, we offer exceptional, well-rounded educational experiences for nearly 7,600 K-12 students that include CIF Championship athletic programs and award-winning band, orchestra, choirs and drama. The Glendora Tartan Marching Band was the only high school band from California in this year's Rose Parade! Of all the quality programs Glendora offers, it is our people that make it one of the most exciting and rewarding school districts in Southern California! The District's success is the result of our dedicated and talented teachers, support staff, administrators and school board. The Glendora experience is one of commitment to, enthusiasm for, and pride in excellence!

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## Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

15959 E. Gale Avenue, City of Industry, CA 91716 • 626/933-1000 • www.hlp schools.org

### Partners in Your Child’s Future



**Cynthia Parulan-Colfer**  
Superintendent

We are privileged to be a part of an exciting time in public education and continue our pledge to our community to be “Partners in Your Child’s Future.” Our Board believes students, parents, staff and community have a shared responsibility and that commitment to partnerships exemplifies our Board’s Guiding Principles. These principles include: a professional culture built upon dedication, honesty, integrity, pride, perseverance, collaboration, teamwork, and mutual trust and respect; recognition of the diverse learning styles and individual needs of students and ensuring all students meet high learning standards; creating a learning environment reflecting our community’s diversity that is safe, clean, supportive, and responsive; and protecting and preserve the short- and long-term financial well-being of the District.

The academic and co-curricular emphasis of the district is reflected in the District’s Academic Performance Index (API), which now exceeds 800. Not only do 17 of our schools have APIs exceeding 800; another five exceed 900. HLPUSD serves over 19,000 Pre-K through Grade 12 students, as well as over 17,000 adults through an extensive Adult Education program.

Schools have been acknowledged for their hard work through California Distinguished School designations and state and national accolades for engineering and health career programs. Schools provide a variety of programs in order to prepare every student for college and career success and have free extended learning programs available at 22 school sites throughout the District that keep students safe and engaged while parents are at work. The multi-cultural diversity of our community has lent itself to be reflective through a great variety of programs and activities, such as STEM, fine and performing arts, environmental science and dual language immersion programs within our schools. In this age of a global society, HLPUSD remains committed to providing rigorous and challenging education programs that continue to build a community of lifelong learners.

## Hermosa Beach City School District

1645 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 • 310/937-5877 • www.hbc sd.org

### One Voice, One Focus



**Patricia Escalante**  
Superintendent

Baby boomers will remember the importance and status of having a full set of Encyclopedias accessible in your own home. Reference materials were found on a shelf. Information was a commodity. Boy, the world has changed. Would you ever have imagined access to information at any time, in any location, on any topic, through a tool called *Google*?

We have entered into a new frontier; an age of education where 21st century learning skills will require students to think: *Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity*. Known as the Common Core, these 21st century standards will ensure that all students are meeting college and work expectations, prepared to succeed in our global economy and society, and provide rigorous content and application of higher order thinking skills.

The students in the Hermosa Beach City School District have demonstrated at the highest levels their mastery of state academic standards. This level of excellence is a reflection of the “one voice, one focus” commitment of our community to the academic success of all students. Through the fundraising commitment of the parents and community, we have been able to continue to offer programs that promote the application of learning to the arts and real life during difficult and challenging fiscal times.

As our students move into 21st century learning, our collective leadership must continue to build strong educational partnerships with the city, businesses, charitable and service organizations in Hermosa Beach. In the heart of Hermosa, we are reminded that “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Excellent schools are a reflection of an excellent community. Join us in the support of our vision of excellence for all students.

## Hawthorne School District

14120 South Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-2276 • www.hawthorne.k12.ca.us

### The Hawthorne Way



**Dr. Helen E. Morgan**  
Superintendent

The Hawthorne School District is nestled in the heart of the South Bay. We proudly serve the families of over 9,000 students through our three preschool programs, seven elementary schools, three middle schools, and one high school. I have been so fortunate to spend my thirty-plus year career in this special place. This is a district that places all focus on students, community, and families. *The Hawthorne Way* has become the saying that symbolizes what we do and how we do it. It has so many meanings that we use the term regularly; and our District Strategic Plan has cited, “Maintaining the Hawthorne Way” as one of the priorities for our District.

To define the Hawthorne Way would require one to put into words what is nearly indescribable. It is a respect among all staff, students, and families. It is a Board of Trustees who knows the community, the staff, and the needs of our students. Whose only agenda is to do what is best for our students. It is the reason that in a year of little forward movement in academic performance statewide, Hawthorne experienced growth. It is a desire by all stakeholders to work together for the good of the District. It is a coming together as a team to accept the challenges, focus on a plan to meet those challenges and work together to continue building upon our successes.

With the proposed new funding for education the *Hawthorne Way* will be an important component in working through the process necessary to create a plan that effectively meets the needs of all students while ensuring our staff has the tools necessary to continue doing the work to keep our schools safe, clean, and productive places for all of our students. I look forward to the collaboration that will be paramount in creating the plan that will guide our work into the future.

## Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District

16633 Elizabeth Lakes Road, Lake Hughes, CA 93532 • 661/724-1231 • www.heluesd.org

### A Distinguished School By the Lakes



**Diane Parkins**  
Superintendent

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary School District is a rural K-8 one school district, nestled in the hills of the Angeles National Forest. Sitting in the northern most portion of Los Angeles County, with an enrollment of 250, the school serves students from the mountain communities of Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lakes, Green Valley and Pine Canyon. The District is one of the oldest in all of the Antelope Valley

The school’s setting is picturesque with a view that stretches from Sawmill Mountain in the west to Mount Baldy in the San Gabriel Mountains far to the East. The school prides itself on meeting the needs of each student because of small class sizes and continuity of teacher staff and students enrolled in the school. All students are served in the general education classroom. This is the model that earned Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary District the title of California Distinguished School.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes is a District of Choice where any parent in Los Angeles & Kern County can chose to enroll their children during an open enrollment period. The school offers a solid core, standards-based instructional day supported by academic intervention. Teachers engage in professional collaboration and analysis of their instructional practice to ensure all students are successful learners. Parents and community members are an important part of the school community. The environment is positive and friendly and visitors comment on the positive outlook everyone has on our campus. With high test scores, parent involvement and dedicated staff Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes is a wonderful place to work, volunteer and attend school!



# Preparing Students for Success



**Dr. Donald Brann**  
*State Trustee*

Situated beneath the flight path of Los Angeles International Airport, the 61-year-old Inglewood Unified School District is home to a diverse population of roughly 12,000 students with 12 elementary and six secondary schools, including an adult school and various preschool programs.

Dr. Brann, who helped bring the neighboring K-8 Wiseburn School District into prominence, has been selected by the State Superintendent to oversee IUSD. And with a new leader at its helm, the district that serves families from the city of Inglewood and the unincorporated Los Angeles County community of Ladera Heights has embarked on plans to increase student

enrollment and enhance academic performance. A successful \$130 bond measure has paved the way for a variety of infrastructure projects, including the new construction of the La Tijera K-8 charter school, and voters recently approved a \$90 million measure that provides for additional building upgrades, new classrooms and more. Rebuilding school facilities remains a priority for IUSD, along with enhancing customer service, right-sizing staff and reorganizing instructional time in the primary grades to allow for smaller class sizes and greater differentiation of instruction.

IUSD primary schools have won accolades for academic excellence. Six have been designated as California Distinguished Schools, and high-performing Highland Elementary, which last year boosted its Academic Performance Index score by 25 points, to 835, has been honored with the prestigious national Blue Ribbon distinction.

IUSD is fortunate to have established relationships with local businesses, alumni groups, community leaders and the University of California, Los Angeles. It has both College Summit and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) programs in place to prepare secondary students for success at colleges and universities.

# Every Student Succeeds



**Wendy Sinnette**  
*Superintendent*

La Cañada Unified School District is a learning community committed to personal growth and academic excellence. Current student enrollment is approximately 4100.

The district operates three elementary schools and a combined 7-12 school. Each school in the district has scored between 940-980 on the Academic Performance Index (API) and has developed an “Every Student Succeeds” plan to ensure that all students received appropriate support in mastering academic standards and in building their full capacities; socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively.

La Cañada Unified School District encompasses the residential community of La Cañada Flintridge, situated in the foothills about thirteen miles north of downtown Los Angeles. La Cañada Flintridge is home of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Descanso Gardens. The professional residents of La Cañada are attracted to the city because of its excellent schools and its strong community spirit. Parent participation and involvement in the schools are extensive as evidenced by a robust educational foundation which contributed over 2 million dollars annually to the district and the active volunteerism and program support by the PTA at each school site.

Approximately 99% of graduating seniors enroll in post-secondary schools, with many students attending some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the nation.

The high school and one elementary school have been named National Blue Ribbon schools and all four schools have been designated as California Distinguish Schools and as Gold Medal winners by California Business for Education Excellence.

# Strong Collaborative Partnership



**Steve Doyle**  
*Superintendent*

The Keppel Union School District is proud of our collaborative partnership with our Keppel Union Teacher’s Association. Together we have are in year three of our five year plan to implement the Common Core Standards. Through our District School Leadership Team, we have created a streamlined process for input, lesson plan development and Professional Learning Communities to strategize on how best to approach the standards. We are proud of our teachers that have created their own curriculum to meet their students need in implementing the Common Core Standards. We are confident in the vision that has been established by or

Board of Trustees to ensure that every student is successful by providing the highest quality instruction every day for every child. Our research based strategies that are being implemented by our amazing teaching staff reinforces our belief that every child can and will be successful academically.

Additionally, we are in year two of our district wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports philosophy. We have systematically worked to change the belief system in our schools from one that focuses on punishments to one that identifies triggers for behavior issues and is proactively establishing rewards and intrinsic motivation. Schools that establish systems with the capacity to implement PBIS with integrity and durability have teaching and learning environments that are:

- Less reactive, aversive, dangerous, and exclusionary, and
- More engaging, responsive, preventive, and productive
- Address classroom management and disciplinary issues (e.g., attendance, tardies, antisocial behavior),
- Improve supports for students whose behaviors require more specialized assistance (e.g., emotional and behavioral disorders, mental health), and
- Most importantly, maximize academic engagement and achievement for all sudents.

## Protecting Your District



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# Lancaster School District

44711 N. Cedar Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93534 • 661/948-4661 • [www.lancaster.k12.ca.us](http://www.lancaster.k12.ca.us)

## A District On the Move



**Dr. Michele Bowers**  
*Superintendent*

Lancaster School District is located in the high desert about 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles and serves students in preschool through eighth grade. Most of the District’s 82.5 square miles lies within the City of Lancaster with a small portion in the unincorporated boundaries of Los Angeles County.

Educating Antelope Valley youth since 1881, we believe the District provides excellent educational opportunities for the more than 14,000 students who attend our schools. We have one alternative education, four middle, one K-8, and thirteen elementary schools. In addition, we serve over 700 students in our preschool program. Focused on 21st century skills, college and career readiness, and acquisition of core knowledge, Lancaster School District is a district “on the move”.

Educational programs emphasize foundational skills through engaging, standards-based lessons in mathematics, language arts, social studies, science and physical education while providing students enrichment and intervention support. In addition to our core classes, students have an opportunity to participate in: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), Music, Foreign Language, Visual and Performing Arts, Sports and other exciting elective programs.

Lancaster School District maintains an uncompromising commitment to provide all students the knowledge and skills that they need to explore a multitude of options for college and career success in the 21st Century. Our district’s Strategic Plan is designed to “chart our course” as we continue to enhance our practices and programs to promote continuous improvement and ensure equity and positive learning experiences for all students. Developed within mutually agreed upon parameters and based on shared beliefs, our focus centers around four key objectives: academic rigor and transition to the common core, safety for all, positive community relations and personal excellence for all.

# Lawndale Elementary School District

4161 W. 147th Street, Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/973-1300 • [www.lawndale.k12.ca.us](http://www.lawndale.k12.ca.us)

## Together We Can Do So Much



**Dr. Ellen Dougherty**  
*Superintendent*

The Lawndale Elementary School District has a long history of effective leadership by the Board of Trustees. Our first and most important lens is what is good for our students; we are deeply committed to raising the bar and closing learning gaps for all students – that is our moral imperative.

Our strengths lie in our staff and community stability with a genuine culture of collaboration and respect. Our challenge is to serve a diverse community while striving for equity and excellence for all. As we continue moving forward with passion and purpose, we are encouraged and grateful for the help and support provided by our numerous community partners. They play an important role as they work with us to help our students be college and career ready in the 21st Century. As Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

# Little Lake City School District

10515 S. Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-8241 • [www.littlelake.k12.ca.us](http://www.littlelake.k12.ca.us)

## Students First!



**Dr. Phillip Perez**  
*Superintendent*

The Little Lake City School District continues an illustrious history of educational excellence. Serving the communities of Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk and a segment of Downey, the district educates nearly 4,700 students in grades K-8 at seven elementary schools and two middle schools. Generations of families have attended Little Lake schools, including those of many of our faculty, staff and administrators.

Little Lake is proud of our academic achievements. Our students overall and in every subgroup demonstrate consistent growth in grade level proficiency on the California Standards Tests and at a rate that significantly exceeds the state. Little Lake schools have earned state and national recognition, including: Title I Achieving Schools; California Distinguished Schools; California Business for Educational Excellence Honor Roll recognition; and both nominations and achievement as National Blue Ribbon Award Schools. As of spring 2013, all nine schools have attained APIs well above 800, the target set by the state. We are working diligently to implement the Common Core State Standards in order to prepare our students for college and future careers. Complementing a strong core academic program are innovative offerings in the visual and performing arts at all district schools.

In fall 2012, the Little Lake voting community expressed its support and appreciation of the district by overwhelmingly passing both a general obligation bond and a parcel tax. This investment in our students’ future will ensure their continued achievement by providing new instructional technology for student and faculty use, further modernization of our sixty-year-old facilities, among other educational program enhancements.

Driving the district’s success are a cohesive and focused governance team, highly qualified teachers and administrators, and a dedicated classified support staff. Our efforts as a Professional Learning Community are aimed at providing a quality education that ensures success for every student.

# Lennox School District

10319 Firmona Avenue, Lennox, CA 90304 • 310/695-4060 • [www.lennox.k12.ca.us](http://www.lennox.k12.ca.us)

## Developing the Whole Child



**Kent Taylor**  
*Superintendent*

The Lennox School District has a history of amazing programs academically as well as in the arts. Our dedicated teachers and classified employees have closed the achievement gaps in many aspects and are committed to increasing student achievement and providing the best programs for students. We are also committed to excellence by leadership from the Board of Education, staff members, parents, guardians, and our collective community.

The Lennox School District offers the following programs to the students and families of Lennox: A School Readiness and Preschool program at every elementary school campus; Golden Bell Award winning Lennox Enrichment After-School Program (LEAP); a partnership with UCLA’s Anderson School of Management’s Health Care Institute for the prevention of obesity and diabetes; educational partnerships with Loyola Marymount University (LMU) to better serve students in Science, Technology, Engineering and math (STEM) programs; LMU Project Stellar for long term English Learners; The Harmony Project with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra; Lennox Middle School Mariachi band; and a partnership with T.H.E. Clinic that offers health services to the District and the Lennox community and will soon also provide dental services.

Lennox is a proud District and community with students on the flight path to success due to our dedicated staff, from administrators to cafeteria workers, as well as highly involved parents.





# A Tablet for Every Student



**Dr. John Deasy**  
Superintendent

In ancient times, clay and stone tablets provided surfaces for the earliest forms of writing. In more modern times, a tablet contained sheets of paper, glued together at the top, perfect for learning how to write or a drawing lesson. Fast-forward to today, a tablet is a personal computing device that can open new worlds, encourage different skills and expand instruction and learning. Anticipating the challenges of the new Common Core State Standards, the Los Angeles Unified School District has taken the lead on integrating tablets into the instructional program. Pioneering schools, such as our highly-touted Melrose Mathematics, Science and Technology Elementary School, began using one-to-

one computers in the classroom room four years ago with significant results. Maywood Elementary School began its one-to-one computing program in 2011, also with appreciable growth in academic achievement. Lessons from these campuses, including appropriate professional development for teachers and strong leadership from principals, inform our massive educational technology project. The roll-out began in August, and has required some fine-tuning. For example, some tech-savvy high school students quickly figured out a way around security intended to keep them off social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, or games that have nothing to do with mastering schoolwork. With that problem solved, we are on track to supply tablets to our students before they are required throughout California to take standardized tests based on the new Common Core standards on computer devices. This is not, however, about taking the test. It is much more about excelling on the test, and in the classroom.

It is also about expectations, high expectations, for every student regardless of race, ethnicity, family income or the language spoken at home. That is why, here in the Los Angeles Unified School District, we are committed to providing access to tablets for the more than 655,000 students who attend traditional and charter schools in the nation's second-largest district by the 2014-15 school year.

# A Time of Great Change & Opportunity



**Christopher J. Steinhauser**  
Superintendent

To say it's been a busy school year is an understatement. With the new Common Core Standards and our transition to new assessments, new report cards, our federal waiver from No Child Left Behind rules, and the implementation of the state's new Local Control Funding Formula, it's understandable that some of our students, staff and parents might feel a little apprehensive at times. These are huge changes that sometimes involve uncharted territory. That's OK. We must also remember that now is a time of tremendous opportunity.

The new academic standards under Common Core, combined with the long overdue overhaul of school finance under LCFF, represent a once-in-a-lifetime chance for us to reshape our schools for the better. Add to that mix an infusion of state funds for Common Core (including \$6 million in funding for new technology), the major grants that we've received for professional development, and the resources that LCFF will bring to the school level over the next several years, and you can see that we're poised for meaningful and lasting improvements in our school district. Schools will have more power to direct funding where it is needed most. With that increased power comes increased accountability. More than ever, we will rely upon data to make sound decisions.

Real change doesn't happen overnight. Sometimes it takes years. But we are well on our way, with a firm foundation to build upon, including more stable funding from the state and the strong support of the communities we serve. Thank you to everyone who is working so hard to build upon our nationally recognized success.

# World-Class Programs



**Dr. Daniel D. Stepenosky**  
Superintendent

Las Virgenes Unified School District consists of eight elementary schools, one K-8 school, three middle schools, two high schools, one continuation high school, one blended learning academy and a district wide preschool program. The District serves more than 11,000 students in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village.

The District is in the process of completing a comprehensive modernization plan utilizing a \$128 million bond passed by our citizens. The cornerstone of the bond activity has been the creation of two cutting edge performing arts education centers that not only support our world-class theater, drama, dance and music programs, but are tremendous instructional platforms as well. They also serve as learning centers for our school community and cultural touchstones for the entire area.

Our API scores rank Las Virgenes in the top two percent in the state. We have been named to the College Board 4th Annual AP District Honor Roll by expanding our student participation, especially among our subpopulations, in the AP program. We have a wide variety of options for our students that include Dual Immersion, L-STEM, High School International Baccalaureate Program, Arts and Media Academy, Waldorf-inspired school, blended learning academy, and arts embedded elementary programs.

In Las Virgenes, we strongly value the social and emotional well being of our students and have invested heavily in our counseling staff. We have the lowest student-to-counselor ratio in the region. Please go to our website at [www.lvusd.org](http://www.lvusd.org) to learn more about our district.

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# Los Nietos School District

8324 South Westman Avenue, Whittier, CA 90606 • 562/692-0271 • [www.losnietos.k12.ca.us](http://www.losnietos.k12.ca.us)

## Engaging All Learners in the Classroom



**Jonathan Vasquez**  
*Superintendent*

The Los Nietos School District, comprised of three K-6 elementary schools and one 7-8 middle school, is nestled in unincorporated Whittier. It serves a student population that is 95% Hispanic, 43% English Learners, 100% free/reduced lunch, and slightly less than 2,000 ADA. We are proud of the academic gains made by all four schools during the AYP and API era, and especially proud of our middle school that finished Federal NCLB guidelines not identified in Program Improvement and achieving a State Similar Score ranking of “10” for three consecutive years. With the new Local Control Funding Formula we anticipate augmenting our standards-based curriculum, finding new ways to engage all learners in the classroom, and providing ongoing opportunities for teacher collaboration. To transition to the Common Core, all 85 teachers participated in four days of professional development entitled, “Making the Common Core Come Alive,” with international consultant Paula Rutherford. Our outstanding instructional staff has embraced the instructional shifts in pedagogy and curriculum.

We are proud of our significant community partnership with the largest employer in the City of Whittier, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital (PIH) Health. Our partnership, “Healthy Los Nietos,” provides health education to students, parents, and staff by medical residents and PIH Health providers. This partnership is one example of the many creative ways our District meets the holistic needs of our community. The Los Nietos School District employees value the diversity of the students and work deliberately, collaboratively, and passionately to meet the needs of the Los Nietos community.

# Lynwood Unified School District

11321 Bullis Road, Lynwood, CA 90262 • 310/886-1600 • [www.lynwood.k12.ca.us](http://www.lynwood.k12.ca.us)

## Promoting Success in College & Career



**Paul Gothold**  
*Superintendent*

For the last two years, Lynwood Unified has experienced some of the greatest API gains in the state of California. To raise the level of achievement for our students, we have worked hard to promote a rigorous curriculum by using data-driven instruction, enhancing professional development, expanding our career technical education courses and creating closer partnerships with our local colleges and community organizations. All of these efforts support our mission to ensure that our students have the tools they need to be successful in college and careers. We are also focused on successfully implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) by providing training to our staff, updating our technology and offering informational meetings to our parents and community. Meanwhile, the community’s support of the District’s Measure K general obligation bond is allowing us to enhance our schools and facilities. Currently, we are in the process of completing new classroom buildings that will replace dozens of outdated portable classrooms at two of our elementary schools. Additional projects have been taking place District-wide so that our students have access to a safe learning environment that fosters their continued growth. We couldn’t do the important work we do without the support of our Board of Education, parents, staff, teachers and broader community. We strongly believe in collaboration for the benefit of our students and families. Together, we are building an organization that truly believes that by providing quality instruction, support and guidance, every student in Lynwood Unified can reach their potential and achieve their goals.

# Lowell Joint School District

11019 Valley Home Avenue, Whittier, CA 90603 • 562/943-0211 • [www.ljsd.org](http://www.ljsd.org)

## Continued Strong Academic Program



**Dr. Patricia A. Howell**  
*Superintendent*

The Lowell Joint School District strives to be among the leading schools throughout the state of California. Our students receive a quality education from outstanding teachers whose top priority is the success of their students. All five of the elementary schools received the 2010 California Distinguished School Award and Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School received the 2013 California Distinguished School Award.

The District is located in the southeastern portion of Los Angeles County and the northwestern portion of Orange County. It serves families from the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier.

The District serves the educational needs of approximately 3,100 students in Kindergarten through eighth grade at five K-6 elementary schools and one junior high school. The District is committed to providing a strong academic program of basic skills having achieved API scores above the 860’s. All six schools acknowledge the importance of education, the family, and traditional American values. There is an emphasis on higher education, personal integrity, social responsibility, Character Education, and an appreciation of our national heritage.

Special programs provided at the schools include art and vocal music (K-8), instrumental music (6-8), drama (7-8), and physical education (K-8). Libraries and computer labs are available at all of the schools, and before- and after-school day care is available at four of the elementary schools. Honors classes and after-school sports are offered at the junior high school.

Parents will see that Lowell Joint schools offer the best educational opportunities.

# Manhattan Beach Unified School District

325 Peck Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 • 310/3189545 • [www.mbusd.org](http://www.mbusd.org)

## 21st Century Scholars



**Dr. Michael D. Matthews**  
*Superintendent*

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District is proud of our students’ achievements in academics, the arts and athletics. *Forbes* magazine recently named Manhattan Beach #6 in the nation in terms of “Education For Your Real Estate Buck.” The Board of Trustees is proud of that distinction, and has set goals for our district that will prepare our students to graduate as 21st Century scholars.

Our students must be excellent communicators. We believe that mastery of writing and literacy is essential to that effort. We are proud of all of our student authors and their commitment to excellence. Our internationally acclaimed Model United Nations program is the epitome of high quality communication.

We nurture creativity and innovation in all students. Our award-winning technology program, with 1:1 technology in grades 5-8, features our amazing teachers who have inspired students to connect beyond the four walls of the classroom. Visual and performing arts are critical, as evidenced by Michael Hayden, a choral teacher in MBUSD, who is a California Teacher of the Year for 2014. Wow!

We strive to develop strong critical thinking skills in all learners. Our K-12 science program reflects the deep-rooted aerospace legacy of our community. Students investigate in our science laboratories, analyze in our STEM classes, and collaborate with local professionals to gain an understanding of real-life problems and formulate solutions.

Clearly, Manhattan Beach is committed to finding avenues for all students to achieve not just on standardized tests, but in areas that will help them succeed in the 21st Century.



# World-Class Schools/World-Class Students



**Dr. Katherine Thorossian**  
*Superintendent*

The Monrovia Unified School District provides strong programs to help every student succeed - from preschool development and dual language programs to our Math and Science Academy to Advanced Placement college and career prep courses. Whether our students are conversing with astronauts through a live downlink from the NASA International Space Station or earning a spot as one of the nation’s Top Ten in the Skills USA Competition, they demonstrate the 7 Cs emphasized in every school:

- Critical Thinking: the ability to analyze multiple sources of information
- Collaboration: the ability to work with experts from multiple disciplines
- Communication: the ability to effectively translate thought orally and in writing
- Creativity: the ability to think fearlessly in multiple dimensions
- Change: perseverance and resilience within an ever-shifting landscape
- Community: the clear understanding that we draw strength from the collective
- Compassion: that essence of humanity that makes everything worthwhile

Our success is grounded within an active community committed to student achievement in academics, athletics, and the arts. We boast a Nobel Prize winner, professional athletes, and CEOs among our alumni; our students perform in a state-of-the-art theater; our teams have earned consecutive CIF championships; and our students extend their vision of the world in our modern Observatory. However, we are most proud of our promise to parents. As they entrust their children to our care, we pledge to safeguard their future by creating opportunities. Regardless of background, our single goal is for each child to realize their dreams.

# Committed to Achieving Excellence



**Dr. Ruth Pérez**  
*Superintendent*

The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District serves over 19,000 students in pre-school through high school, as well as the adult community through a strong Adult Education Program.

NLMUSD is committed to giving our students the knowledge and confidence to achieve excellence. We are poised to equip students with the skills they need to be ready for college and beyond. From our magnet schools and throughout high school, NLMUSD students are exposed to an array of specialty subjects that groom them for the future. In fact, the District was named one of just a few school districts throughout the state to become a partner in “Linked Learning,” a program designed to link academics and career

readiness, adding to the Districts thriving Career Pathways program. The district is also committed to STEAM opportunities for students, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. We partner with surrounding universities and colleges that allow us to bring expertise and grant funded unique programs to the district.

The District boasts a 92 percent graduation rate, with 80 percent of last year’s high school seniors reporting they plan to further their educations. Many of our students went on to several top-tier colleges, including Harvard and MIT.

Our schools and programs have been the recipients of the Golden Bell Award from the California School Board Association; California Distinguished School; the California State Seal of Biliteracy from the State Superintendent; the Title I Academic Achievement Award; and a Star Scholars award from the California Business for Education Excellence.

With the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, Linked Learning, our commitment to STEAM with emphasis in the Visual and Performing Arts and the hard work of our faculty and staff, NLMUSD students will indeed be given every opportunity to demonstrate excellence.

# A Culture of Rigor, Support & Relationships



**Cleve Pell**



**Susanna Contreras Smith**

*Superintendents*

As the third largest District in Los Angeles County, Montebello Unified serves 30,000 K-12 students and over 25,000 more in the District’s quality adult education program. We are fully committed to preparing every student for success beyond our classrooms and are continually refining our organization to achieve this goal through strong academic programs; rigorous curriculum; and targeted resources, support and interventions. Our success is contingent on the support of our Board of Education, and quality partnerships and communication between our parents, staff, teachers,

administrators and community. We are proud that Montebello Unified was recently recognized with two of the California School Boards Association’s prestigious Golden Bell awards for excellent programs that are demonstrating positive results. One of the awards focuses on our Project Safety Net, an initiative that provides universal, targeted and intensive support and treatment for students, including mental health services, alcohol, tobacco and drug use prevention programs and anti-bullying programs. Our efforts have resulted in lower instances of bullying, increased emergency preparedness and better student access to mental health services. The Golden Bell award also highlighted our AVID (Advancement Via Individual Achievement) program at Bell Gardens High School, where 100 percent of students in AVID last year graduated from high school, 90 percent completed college requirements and 85 percent were accepted into four-year universities. We are focused on creating the next generation of leaders and critical thinkers through the successful implementation of the Common Core State Standards, the expansion of career technical programs and by connecting students to resources that not only help them reach their educational goals, but also enhance their quality of life.

# Public Support is Strong



**Dr. Marc Winger**  
*Superintendent*

Our ten schools serve almost 7,000 preschool through sixth grade students residing in Newhall, Valencia, Stevenson Ranch, and Westridge. From 2003 to 2013 every school in NSD was recognized by the State of California as a Distinguished School. Four schools participating in the federal compensatory education program under No Child Left Behind have been recognized as Academic Achievement Award Schools. Since 1982 five schools have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as Blue Ribbon Schools.

The district fosters professional collaboration and planning that leads to student achievement and parent involvement is high. We distribute an annual Effective Schools survey, asking parents to respond to the statement, “Overall I am satisfied with this school.” About 95% or more agree, year after year, with this summary question.

NSD takes great pride in its fine arts program. Students in all grades are taught vocal music, learn to play the recorder in third grade, and can move on to a vibrant instrumental music program in grades 4-6. Students receive small group lessons on string, wind, brass and percussion instruments or participate in chorus. A visual arts teacher instructs all 4th and 5th graders about the elements of art, the foundation of artistic perception and creative expression.

Public support is strong. In 2011 the district passed a \$60 million bond to provide funds for building renovation and technology. Over 90% of voters in the election did not have students in the district, proving a community-wide trust in the district and its staff.

# A College-Bound Culture



**Lillian Maldonado French**  
*Superintendent*

The Mountain View School District is a K-8 district located in El Monte in the San Gabriel Valley. In MVSD, our strength lies in our highly qualified employees, rigorous curriculum, dedicated parents and caring community, each focused on the educational development of our students, providing them with a solid foundation of skills they may take forward into our ever changing world.

Our mission is to inspire each student to succeed every day and ensure that each student attains or exceeds academic proficiency. MVSD’s 12 schools, alternative education center and Children’s Center/Head Start program are strongly committed to high expectations and improved student achievement at all grade levels. A college-bound culture is promoted district-wide among all students and with our parents, through a variety of programs including GEAR Up, the Partnership Scholars Program, Parent Institute for Quality Education and No Excuses University, all focused on inspiring future collegiate scholars.

MVSD is comprised of an excellent team of educators and support staff who believe in each student’s ability to achieve. Our team is dedicated to preparing today’s students and tomorrow’s leaders for success by providing core academics with 21st century skills. Through innovative instruction students are encouraged to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, good communicators and collaborators, technology literate, innovative, creative, and globally competent.

# Ensuring Learning & Success for Students



**Herman M. Mendez**  
*Superintendent*

Paramount Unified School District is a Kindergarten through 12th grade School District serving the communities of Paramount, Bellflower, Lakewood, Long Beach, and South Gate. We serve 16,000 students.

Our dedicated team of students, parents, teachers, classified employees, administrators and Board members have truly embraced our motto, “Great Things are Happening in Paramount Schools – We Inspire Great Learning through Great Teaching.” Paramount has accomplished a great deal to be proud of. For example, among the 47 Unified School Districts in the Los Angeles County, Paramount has ranked in the top 2 Districts in terms of API point gains for 2013 and continues to advance. Across the state, Paramount ranked in the top 4 out of 161 districts with enrollment of 10,000 or more. Additionally, we have garnered affirmation of our quality programs with the Schools to Watch program recognition for Zamboni, Alondra and Leona Jackson Middle Schools, and a CDE recognition for Buena Vista High School as a Model Continuation High School.

The “District Vision” has been achieved through High Quality Instruction, Standards-Aligned Content, Consistency and Coherence in Instructional Practices, High Levels of Achievement for All Students, and Highly Effective Teachers and Learning Leaders. Our mission is to ensure learning and success for each student by providing a quality education.

Paramount USD enjoys much community support; our voters passed a \$100 million facilities bond allowing for a new stadium, library and science building to be built at Paramount High School.

Our instructional focus includes Common Core State Standards, PLC Collaboration, Response to Intervention, Safe and Civil Schools, Learning Walks, Academic Core Coaches at all schools as well as K-12 Counselors, all of which is coordinated in support of preparing our students for College and Career Readiness.

# Launching a lifetime of learning



**Pauline Winbush**  
*Interim Superintendent*

The mission of the Palmdale School District is to provide each child with a rigorous and relevant academic education, a safe learning environment and the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for success in the 21st Century.

Palmdale School District serves the urban and suburban communities of Central and East Palmdale in the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles County’s northern most region. The District consists of 20 elementary and 5 intermediate schools, providing a student focused quality education to 19,428 children. Additionally, the district operates one of Los Angeles County’s largest preschool programs, serving over 1,800 preschoolers in Head Start, Early Head Start, State Preschool, and LA Up. The district offers a variety of education programs providing opportunities for innovation and choice for parents and families. In addition to our comprehensive K-6 settings, the district also offers “schools of choice,” including an International Baccalaureate school, two dual immersion schools (English and Spanish 50/50), a blended Independent Study/Virtual Online program, and an intermediate AVID academy. AVID is also offered district wide, grades 4 through 8. One intermediate school is WASC accredited with the remainder on the way. Another bright light in the district is the Palmdale Discovery Center which is an applied behavior academy specially developed to serve students with autism from districts throughout the Antelope Valley area.

Unique to our elementary district is the SAGE Planetarium, a fully staffed planetarium with the latest state of the art equipment offering programs in English and Spanish for standards based science instruction as well as programs for our community.

# Preparing Students to Succeed



**Jon R. Gundry**  
*Superintendent*

The Pasadena Unified School District serves 18,000 pre-K to 12th grade students in the San Gabriel Mountain foothill communities of Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre and some unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Our 28 historic campuses offer a wealth of academic and cultural learning opportunities for students in math, science, history, art and music.

With the goal of preparing students to succeed in the 21st century, PUSD schools offer a college and career preparatory culture and a broad choice of academic programs designed for students to thrive in a global economy:

- Dual language immersion programs in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese starting in kindergarten
- Four Magnet Schools focused on areas such as STEM and performing and visual arts.
- Ten themed high school academies that partner with local institutions and businesses to provide mentoring and workplace learning opportunities
- An International Baccalaureate program spanning all grade levels.
- Workplace learning opportunities for high school students at partner organizations such as NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the California Institute of Technology, Huntington Memorial Hospital and other Pasadena-area businesses and institutions
- Annual district-wide student art exhibitions in conjunction with Pasadena’s ArtNight.

Strong and growing partnerships with the city of Pasadena and other community organizations are making a collective and positive impact on the education, health and well-being of youth and families in our community. PUSD parents actively engage in support of student achievement through involvement at the classroom, school, district and state levels.



# Pomona Unified School District

800 S. Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91766 • 909/397-4800 • www.pusd.org

## World-Class Level of Instruction



**Richard L. Martinez**  
*Superintendent*

The Pomona Unified School District offers its 27,000+ students world-class level instruction through partnerships with dozens of colleges and universities.

Our students have access to a broad spectrum of programs that most interest them— from engineering and robotics to medical careers (where students are mentored by professors at Western University), to programs in Environmental Science, Law, and Music. We offer dual-enrollment programs with nearby colleges and universities where students earn college credit while working toward their diploma.

Through advanced placement course offerings, college test prep, partnerships with programs such as Upward Bound, Bright Prospect, GearUp, and others, Pomona Unified students are well prepared for college. Similarly, students who choose to enter the workforce directly are benefitting from career pathways programs that specialize in some of the fastest growing career fields in the nation, including computer and media techs, the hospitality industry, nursing and health care, and others.

Our instructional programs are based on our Six Essentials: “Responsive Instruction” with “Shared Leadership,” “Aligned Resources,” “Student Work and Data,” “Professional Development” and “Family and Community.”

PUSD supports a culture of service to our students and families. Our teachers and staff support our students in the classroom, on the athletic field, or behind the scenes by creating an educational environment where children feel safe to learn and achieve.

Our district’s core values are “Respect, Responsibility, Results, and Relationships.” For our students to succeed, each is needed. We are proud to partner with our parents and community in building an outstanding that provides excellence for every student, in every classroom, every day.

# Rosemead School District

3907 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/312-2900 • www.rosemead.k12.ca.us

## Preparing 21st Century Learners



**Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez**  
*Superintendent*

Rosemead School District is proud to share that our academic test scores show that our schools outperform other similar schools in both the county and the State of California. We are very proud of this academic achievement based on last spring’s state test scores. We also work to continue to narrow any achievement gaps among subgroups of our learners.

In addition to the academic work that our teachers and staff at the schools do for children; the Rosemead School District has also adopted the Leader in Me Program in our elementary schools over the past 5 years. The 7 Habits for Highly Effective adults has been implemented for children and this Leader in Me program helps our students adopt essential 21st century life skills and principles that will be helpful to thrive in the workforce. Muscatel Middle School is a top ranked Science Olympiad School in our county, state and nationwide.

Lastly, our PK-8 grade schools are also recognized as leaders in the Arts by the Los Angeles County Arts for All programs. The Rosemead School District continues to be a vanguard district in the county. The Arts for All is a program sponsored by the Los Angeles County Supervisors and the Weingarten Foundation.

**Thank you for reading *School News Roll Call*.  
This is an annual March publication.**

# Redondo Beach Unified School District

1401 Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/379-5449 • www.rbusd.org

## Reaching for Greatness



**Dr. Steven E. Keller**  
*Superintendent*

The state-of-the-art Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) consists of eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, one continuation school, one community day school, one adult school, and a district-wide child development center. The truly transformative district serves more than 9,000 K-12 students and despite declining enrollment trends throughout California, RBUSD continues to grow as a result of the synergy created between community and schools. We attribute the enrollment increase to: 1) great teaching and student engagement; and 2) the passages of a \$145 million construction bond in 2008 and a solar and technology bond in 2012 aimed at providing

modern instructional tools while concurrently relieving the district’s general fund. This smart business management and the support of the Redondo Beach community have made RBUSD the finest school district in the South Bay!

Continued forward progress has been the ongoing focal point for the Board of Education, the administration, and the staff. Establishing data-driven educational programs, examining utilization of resources, and enhancing community and city relationships have secured a stronger commitment to better serve the students in our fine schools. Our reputation, statewide data, and achievement rankings have continued to soar. RBUSD has also created community-focused programs and movements, such as our College-Going Culture, Safe School Ambassador, and Vitality Cities commitments. Too, our new and greatly modernized facilities are likely to continue this partnership into our city and wider community. The whole child’s needs—socially, academically, emotionally, and physically—are the centerpiece for success at RBSUD.

Redondo Beach Unified is just that, unified. Students, parents, and staff model schooling and learning that is collaborative, rigorous, and transformational. Redondo is indeed *Reaching for Greatness*.

# Rowland Unified School District

1830 Nogales Street, Rowland Heights, CA 91748 • 626/965-2541 • www.rowlandschools.org

## Creating Global Thinkers & Leaders



**Ruben P. Frutos**  
*Superintendent*

Rowland Unified School District is proud to be one of the premiere districts in the San Gabriel Valley that serves the communities of Rowland Heights and portions of City of Industry, La Puente, West Covina and Walnut. We offer families quality schools with a variety of advanced academic programs and enrichment opportunities in a caring culture that enables students to become global thinkers and leaders.

- Award-winning schools that are technology-rich and signature programs include:
- International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools: Both Nogales and Rowland High Schools and two K-8 IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) Schools.

- Spanish Dual Immersion Programs starting in Kindergarten.
- National No Excuses University College Culture Schools.
- Transitional Kindergarten across the District.
- Awards: Rowland High School named “One of America’s Best High Schools” in *Newsweek* and *U.S. News & World Report*. Alvarado Intermediate named “School to Watch” National Model Middle School. Nogales High School has “GATES Millennium Scholars” for past six years!
- Both High schools offer extensive Advanced Placement and Honors classes, athletics, music, enrichment opportunities and support services for students to succeed. More than \$3 million in scholarships and grants are awarded to seniors each year.

RUSD is proud that our community supports education. The Measure R 2012 Bond will revitalize both Rowland High School, Nogales High School and Stanley G. Oswalt Academy with new school buildings and a new Performing Arts Center at Rowland High School. Our educational facilities include state-of-the-art science labs, and the technology infrastructure needed for our students to perform at the highest levels.

# Proud Traditions



Dr. David Yoshihara  
Superintendent

Nestled in the heart of the Valley, the San Gabriel Unified School District stands proud of its traditions as well as its future. At the core of our success lie our students and the dedicated staff that supports them. Their achievements are displayed academically and in the many extra-curricular opportunities that exist within our schools. Some of our proudest moments in recent history include:

- Three-time L.A. County Middle School Mock Trial Finalists (winner in 2011-12)
- Award-winning Jefferson Middle School First Lego League teams (state winner and runner up in 2013-14)
- Nationally ranked, and largest in Southern California, speech and debate program including a national winner in 2013

- Model Continuation High School at Del Mar
- 19 Advanced Placement courses
- Robust Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Program at Gabrielino High School
- League champions in volleyball, basketball, and golf
- State finalists for History Day LA at Del Mar Continuation School
- Championship elementary science Olympiad program
- Competitive show choral program starting in middle school

The priority areas our District continues to be focused around the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in our curriculum and assessment of student learning.

This year we piloted an elementary speech and debate program which is the only public school program of its type in the state. Starting in the fall of 2014, we will be offering a dual-language Spanish Immersion program for kindergarteners. We also plan to start a competitive robotics program for our elementary and high school students next year. We are excited by all that San Gabriel Unified has to offer its students.

# Vision for Student Success



Sandra Lyon  
Superintendent

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is an amazing learning community that is committed to providing a high quality public education for each and every student in our schools.

As we roll out the Common Core and prepare for new assessments, our goal is to ensure that students in our district receive the education and support they need to pursue college and careers and lead meaningful, engaged lives. Our staff works diligently to provide a rigorous academic environment that fosters creativity while supporting the social-emotional and physical well-being of our students so they can achieve their dreams.

The 21st Century work world will require creative, critical thinkers who communicate effectively and collaborate well with others. We know that continued focus on collaboration in our district is critical to the success of our students, to the growth and extension of our staff's capabilities and makes the community and our district stronger and more vital.

Our mission statement is: Extraordinary achievement for all students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap. To that end we are launching the Vision for Student Success in 2014-15 which will ensure that every student in our district has

- literacy support and extension visual and performing arts instruction throughout the school year for all elementary students
- resources to provide enrichment programs at all schools
- high quality professional development for all staff

There is much to look forward to in SMMUSD in the coming year and we are proud to exemplify the promise of public education throughout our district.

# Prepared to Contribute



Loren Kleinrock  
Superintendent

We are committed to providing our students a world-class education with recognized excellence in academics, arts, and athletics. The district partners with parents and the community to provide students the highest quality education in a supportive and positive climate. Students will develop critical thinking skills, global awareness, and civic responsibility, enabling them to be productive citizens in the 21st century.

With a 2013 district API of 953, for the eleventh year in a row, the SMUSD ranks as the highest scoring unified school district in California. All schools are California Distinguished Schools. The following is a partial list of additional school awards:

San Marino High School: NCLB National Blue Ribbon School; California Business for Educational Excellence; LA Music Center BRAVO Award for Visual and Performing Arts; *U.S. News and World Report* Gold Medal School and Gold Medal Math and Science School; National School of Excellence in Debate, 1 of only 20 in the nation; top 12 SAT average in California; State Civic Learning Award winner; Athletics – 70 CIF Championships.

Huntington Middle School: National Blue Ribbon School; highest API scoring middle school in LA County last 12 of 13 years; LA Music Center Bravo Award Runner-Up; California Business for Educational Excellence; 2012, 2013 Flag Football State Champions.

Carver Elementary School: NCLB National Blue Ribbon School, California Business for Educational Excellence Award, Top 60 Schools in LA County – *LA Magazine*.

Valentine Elementary School: California Business for Educational Excellence Award, 2008 LA Music Center BRAVO Award for VAPA, Top 60 Schools in LA County – *LA Magazine*.

With a focus on producing young people of quality, the district remains one of the finest in the nation.

# 100 Years of Excellence



Dr. Joan Lucid  
Superintendent

Saugus Union School District is proud of over 100 years of excellence in elementary education. In partnership with the home and community; our Board, teachers, support staffs and administrators are dedicated to academic and personal success for every student.

Together we celebrate academic excellence. All schools achieved over 800 on the state API with five achieving over 900. Fourteen of our fifteen schools are designated California Distinguished Schools, five are National Blue Ribbon and one is a Title 1 Achieving School. Our teachers and staffs are recognized for their innovations, accomplishments and caring compassion for our children and one another.

Our District Goals provide a roadmap to further academic excellence:

- Brain-based Direct Instruction – teachers provide ‘clean, first teach’ lessons and meaningful activities that engage students actively and ensure in-depth student understanding.
- Systematic ELD – teachers utilize specific strategies that engage our English Language Learners and fully commit to 30 minutes of ELD instruction daily.
- Responses to Intervention – teachers collaborate to ensure that we meet individual student needs.

Building bridges from State Standards to Common Core Standards define our professional development targets as we implement Common Core and the new state assessment system. Our children deserve 21st Century skills to achieve in a 21st Century world where Communication, Creatively, Collaboration and Critical Thinking are daily routines. Our Board of Trustees encourages our efforts, supports our endeavors and takes great pride in the accomplishments of our Saugus Union School District family.



# Leading the Way



**Joel Shapiro**  
*Superintendent*

In South Pasadena we are committed to preparing all of our students for college, career, and global citizenship. Our theme for this year, “Leading the Way,” speaks to the importance of leadership. All of our staff members – teachers, administrators, and support staff – are leaders in this endeavor. Our teachers have taken leadership in developing curriculum and assessments that align with the Common Core State Standards. They’re becoming leaders in integrating technology into classroom instruction. They share best practices and work collaboratively to design innovative projects and lessons that challenge students to think critically and creatively. Our administrators are true instructional leaders, supporting teachers in their efforts to make learning rigorous and relevant every day.

Also, we are focused on developing leadership ability in all of our students. We want them to grow in taking responsibility for their learning and for all of their choices. We want them to become confident, articulate, and adaptable learners – the leaders of the 21st century. We are proud that many students have joined programs to mentor younger students; that they have become leaders in anti-bullying programs; and that they provide countless hours of service to the community.

While looking ahead, we are also proud of what we have accomplished. All of our schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools within the past four years. Our District’s API has continued to grow; the current API of 920 is 13th highest among unified school districts in California. We have made significant progress in closing the achievement gap among some underperforming groups. Over 90% of our high school graduates attend college. Our students continue to perform extremely well in regional, state and national competitions, such as County Math Field Day, Academic Decathlon, County and State Science Fairs, Knowledge Masters Open, Destination ImagiNation, and many others. Working closely with our supportive parents and community members, we will continue to strive for excellence, keeping students’ needs first.

# TUSD Educates the Whole Child



**Dr. George Mannon**  
*Superintendent*

TUSD has been successfully educating Torrance students for over sixty years. Families move to Torrance because they want their children to have the best education. TUSD students continuously meet and exceed State and National standards, distinguishing themselves as the best of the best. The goal of the District is to maximize student success and potential. We are able to accomplish these goals because of our team of highly qualified administrators, teachers, and support staff at our schools. They work tirelessly to ensure every student receives invaluable educational experiences. Part of the TUSD mission is to educate the whole child, making sure that students are building character as well as academic excellence. The District values community service and encourages volunteerism. Our students have put in hundreds of hours volunteering for worthy causes locally and globally.

When our students graduate, they have the academic knowledge to pursue their career path, a sense of how their contributions can positively impact the lives of others, and have had the opportunity to delve into art, music, robotics, journalism, sports, and other extracurricular activities in order to better explore their own interests. When our students graduate, they leave with a valuable educational experience that remains with them throughout their lives.

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# Success for Every Student



**Dr. Erich Kwek**  
*Superintendent*

The South Whittier School District has been in existence for almost 100 years and has developed a reputation for excellence. We work very hard to live up to this reputation and our efforts receive strong support from parents and the community. This is demonstrated by the many generations of families that have gone through our schools and their strong commitment and support for maintaining our tradition of excellence.

South Whittier School District is committed to a standards based curriculum while also educating the whole child. All schools have made excellent progress in meeting academic standards set by the state, and they also provide an opportunity for students to develop individual skills and talents.

The mission of South Whittier School District is to prepare every student for success in high school and beyond by focusing on the core academic subjects in an effective and integrated curriculum. We believe:

- Students learn best when they are engaged in challenging and appropriate learning focused on the core academic subjects of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies integrated with physical education and the fine arts.
- Quality teachers are the single greatest predictor of student success in respecting the diversity and uniqueness of each student.
- Students learn best when families value education, and teach their children to accept increasing responsibility for their own learning.
- Quality education improves the quality of life for students, their families, and the community now and in the future.

In the South Whittier School District we are achieving our mission, upholding our beliefs and living up to our motto of success for every student.

# A Place of Award-Winning Schools



**Dr. Mary Louise Labrucherie**  
*Superintendent*

Valle Lindo School District has been hailed as the “best kept secret in the state” and “a peach of a district” by program quality reviewers and auditors. We invite you to visit our schools and tour our historical school house, botanical gardens, and engaging classrooms. Established in 1863, this District of two schools is the third oldest district in the state, rich in history and accomplishments. Both Dean L. Shively Middle School and New Temple Elementary School have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools, and both schools have earned Title I Academic Achievement Awards.

The District’s focus on using technology to advance effective and efficient instruction extends to our state-of-the-art technology/media centers. All teachers use the latest technology in their classrooms. Advanced technology allows teachers the ability to fully implement textbooks and instructional materials that incorporate technology, as well as electronic media.

The District was honored by the California School Boards Association with three Golden Bell Awards. The first Golden Bell was received for an eight-step instructional process, whereby teachers use multiple assessment data to construct a 36-week instructional calendar. Teachers meet weekly by grade level throughout the year to plan and assess student mastery of the content standards. The second Golden Bell was received for the District’s Eight-Step Character Education Program, developed by the guiding principals of the Search Institute’s 40 developmental assets model. The third Golden Bell award was received for the District’s 4-8th grade Zingy Science Program that dramatically improved the District’s science program.

With our incorporation of technology and award-winning programs, the Valle Lindo School District is actively engaged in preparing students for a successful life in the 21st Century.

# LEADING CHANGE



**Dr. Robert P. Taylor**  
*Superintendent*

It is an exciting time in Walnut Valley and I am proud to serve as superintendent. I appreciate the long-standing tradition of excellence in our District. Our outstanding teachers and staff members provide learning environments that foster the success of our students and they are working together as we make the transition to a new accountability system including the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

We are proud of our District’s commitment to academic success. Signifying a continued high level of student achievement, our 2013 API score is 909 and we are excited to be one of only 18 unified school districts in the State of California and seven in Los Angeles County to achieve this distinction. Walnut Valley schools have been recognized with top state and national awards such as California Distinguished and U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools.

We appreciate the ongoing support from our Walnut Valley community with volunteers donating time and resources to enrich the educational experience of our students.

We strive to develop first-rate learning facilities. This year we celebrated modernization of Cyrus J. Morris Elementary, new Chaparral Middle School Science Buildings, Diamond Bar High School Math Building and Aquatic Center. Construction is now underway at Maple Hill Elementary. All of these projects were made possible by voter approval of Bond Measures S and Y.

I believe it is important to hold onto and cherish the strong traditions that have been established in Walnut Valley. To help ensure that we remain a top achieving school district during this time of change in education, we have agreed to focus on three areas which are key to our success: Building Relationships, strengthening Fiscal Stability and increasing Student Achievement.

Here in Walnut Valley, we look forward to continued student success and serving as change leaders in education!

# Strong Academic Programs



**Regina L. Rossall**  
*Superintendent*

Three of our schools have been named California Distinguished Schools, Anaverde Hills, Rancho Vista, and Valley View. Our academic program continues to be rigorous resulting in API scores over 800 districtwide and one school now exceeds 900. Anaverde Hills School is under construction, and on completion will offer our students outstanding access to technology. There are 7 schools serving K-6th grade, 3 K-8 schools, 2 7-8 schools, and 1 community day school. In addition, parents seeking a home school setting are served through our K-8 Mountain School Program.

Our strong academic programs in middle school are supported by a wide range of electives including woodshop, home arts, art, instrumental music, computers, broadcast journalism, to name a few. There are opportunities to participate in the Civil Air Patrol program, and other leadership training programs. We have two STEM schools of choice, one K-6 and the other 7-8 both have been operational for 2 years, and we’ve added a 6th grade Honors Academy, too.

The District continues its active participation in antibullying program such as Not in our School, Not in our Town. The work of the District was captured on a PBS Broadcast Program, and several of our schools received grants to continue these programs.

The District continues to receive community support for extracurricular and academic programs from community partners such as the WAVE, SAVE, Rotary and Kiwanis. Through the generosity of these partners, our middle school sports program, AVID, ballroom dance, children’s musical theater, career orientated field trips, and many others have been available to our students.

Our District motto is “Pointing the Way, Providing the Path,” and everyday our staff endeavors to create the environment that sets our students on the path for success. We are proud to serve the western Antelope Valley.

# World-Class Education



**Debra Kaplan**  
*Superintendent*

The West Covina Unified School District is distinguished by its 14 award-winning schools that provide a world-class education to approximately 10,000 students. Five schools are recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools; ten have been designated as California Distinguished Schools and this year both West Covina and Edgewood High School have been nominated as California Distinguished Schools. Multiple schools have received the Title I Academic Achievement Award and several others recognized on the California Business for Educational Excellence Honor Roll. We have a Model Continuation High School Program, an extensive Advanced Placement Program at West Covina High School and a prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program at Edgewood High School.

Our level of success depends on a constant effort to improve our educational program with the ultimate goal of providing our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful 21st Century global citizens. Our Strategic Plan keeps us focused on student learning within the context of the new common core state standards. We are committed to integrating technology into teaching and learning as well as developing our students as competent and fluent writers. Our plan also includes promoting 21st Century Citizenship skills to enable all students to explore, develop and express their own values and opinions, while listening to and respecting the views of others. In addition, we want to connect math and science with technology and engineering to prepare more students for these studies in college. The hallmark of the West Covina School District is that we are committed to working collaboratively on behalf of our students to empower them to identify their passions and reach their own goals.

# Students First, Every Decision, Every Day



**Dr. Ron Carruth**  
*Superintendent*

Whittier City School District’s motto, “Students First, Every Decision, Every Day” signifies our commitment to providing our students with the greatest opportunities for their success within a nurturing and respectful learning environment. With support from our families and the community, Whittier City School District is dedicated to creating schools that capture the interest of students through a highly engaged learning environment, the development of critical thinking, and the application of 21st Century Skills.

First and foremost is our commitment to student learning linked to the Common Core Standards, fostering collaboration, perseverance, and problem solving coupled with reading and writing across the curriculum. To support this goal and to promote innovative teaching, WCSD has launched a 1:1 iPad environment for students and staff. The foundation for all of our work is ongoing professional development supported by a collaborative culture at each school. Our teachers work diligently to design an outstanding curricular program with comprehensive support systems for struggling students.

Beyond our high quality instructional programs, we offer several innovative “Themed Academies,” one of which is Mill School Technology Academy, which recently received the prestigious recognition as an “Apple Distinguished School.” Recently, we opened our first Dual Immersion Spanish Program at Daniel Phelan’s Language and Literacy Academy, Edwards Middle School boasts a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academy and Hoover Fine Arts Academy offers a wide range of art, music and drama experiences for students. Whittier City School District is a great place for our students and families!



## Whittier Union High School District

9401 S. Painter Avenue, Whittier, CA 90605 • 562/698-8121 • www.wuhsd.org

# Innovative Learning Community



**Sandy Thorstenson**  
*Superintendent*

Under the consistent leadership of our Board of Trustees, the Whittier Union High School District has created a strong, resilient and innovative learning community built on a culture of trust and collaboration and operating with a common moral purpose: to improve the well-being and ability to achieve of every one of our students.

Whittier Union serves more than 13,000 ethnically diverse students at five award-winning comprehensive high schools, a continuation school, an independent study program and an adult school with more than 7,000 students.

Students' academic achievements at every school continue to soar in multiple areas notwithstanding a growing number of socio-economically disadvantaged students. Nearly 100 percent of Whittier Union seniors meet the CAHSEE requirement. More than 93 percent of seniors from the district's five comprehensive high schools are graduating. In addition, 54.6 percent of seniors are completing all courses required for entrance into four-year universities and more than 90 percent of seniors enroll in two- or four-year colleges. Moreover, the district's achievement gap has been narrowed from 35 percent to 8 percent over the last 10 years.

The district offers a variety of quality learning opportunities that include career technical education, performing and visual arts programs, athletic programs, bi-literacy programs and a strong network of student support systems within modernized facilities geared for 21st Century learning.

Whittier Union is an exceptional learning organization where students benefit from a highly skilled, collaborative and dedicated team of certificated and classified staff who are passionate about preparing our students to be quality contributors to society.

## William S. Hart Union High School District

21380 Centre Pointe parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350 • 661/259-0033 • www.hartdistrict.org

# Drug Prevention Multi-Agency Approach



**Robert Challinor**  
*Superintendent*

The Hart School District launched its comprehensive alcohol and drug reduction and education (CADRE) program with the help of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Santa Clarita division and the City of Santa Clarita in 2007. Some of the components to the program to prevent drug use are voluntary random drug testing, counseling and assessment for treatment, referral and a three-day intensive intervention program for first time offenders of alcohol and drug related incidents.

The district, in conjunction with the same community partners, launched a new club in 2012 called Drug Free Youth in Town (DFYIT) throughout our junior high and high schools, with a staff advisor at each site. The program is run by kids for kids, and it promotes a drug and alcohol free lifestyle. What makes DFYIT unique is the fact that there is limited adult involvement. The idea is that students will band together with other students and together they will give each other reasons to stay drug free. Our high school students in the DFYIT clubs are now taking their message of a drug and alcohol free lifestyle on the road to our feeder elementary schools, giving the program ongoing strength and building momentum. If the program prevents any child from taking a wrong turn towards a life of drugs, it is a program that makes sense for students and parents and will continue to be supported by the district.

The Hart School District received a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association in the student services category for these programs in Fall 2013.

## Wilsona School District

18050 E. Avenue O, Palmdale, CA 93591 • 661/264-111 • www.wilsonasd.net

# Focused on Student Success



**Teresa A. Grey**  
*Superintendent*

The Wilsona School District serves the rural, high desert community of Lake Los Angeles. The Wilsona School District is an organization which views itself as a family. Tucked in the northeast corner of the unincorporated Los Angeles County, Wilsona provides welcoming campuses and devoted staff to its 1310 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The District covers approximately 100 square miles. 90% of the area's population is located within 20 square miles. Wilsona has one of the highest poverty rates.

Student achievement and high standards are the focus of our schools. Working collaboratively with student success as a goal, the staff has developed strong bonds focused on teaching and learning. They are constant professionals who actively participate in professional development, engage in self reflection and collaboration. Despite the challenges our students face and the distance staff drives to work in Wilsona, there is a great sense of unity and support for our efforts to educate students. We welcome parents to work with us to educate their children. We want to provide the best educational opportunities for our students. Wilsona may be small but we are mighty in our efforts to educate our students.

I am proud to be the Superintendent of this wonderful District. I feel privileged to work with outstanding teachers, support staff, families, and the Board of Trustees. Each person brings special qualities to the District that supports students in becoming lifelong learners. Our school community wants all children to excel and fulfill their dreams.

## Wiseburn School District

13530 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/643-3025 • www.wiseburn.k12.ca.us

# 118 Years of Excellence in Education



**Dr. Tom Johnstone**  
*Superintendent*

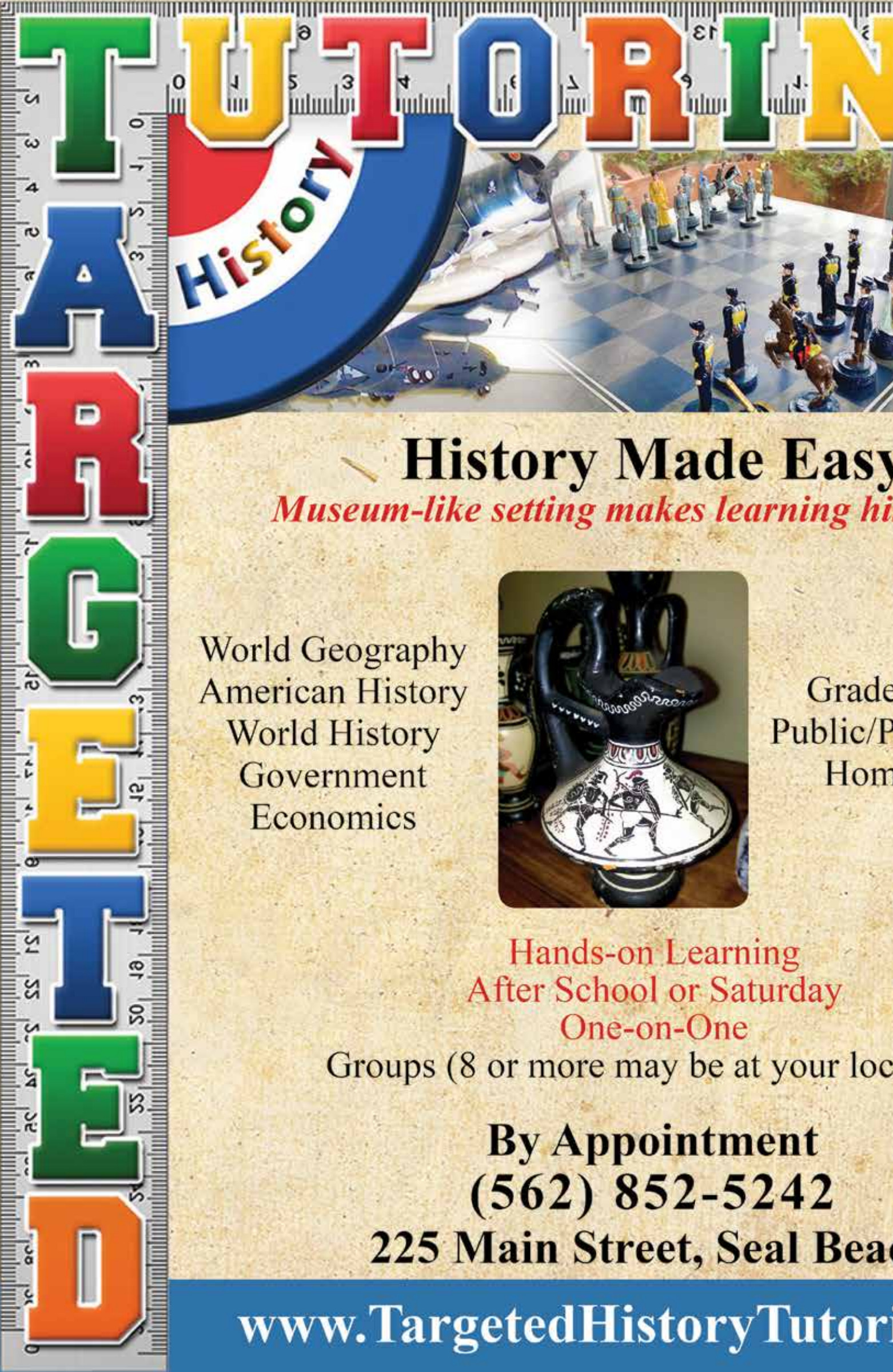
Excellence in education has been our motto and our way of life since 1896! With approximately 3,800 students and 8 schools, the Wiseburn Unified School District is one of the few remaining small school districts in Los Angeles County. Diversity, with balance, is one of Wiseburn's greatest strengths in preparing graduates for life in Southern California's future. Being both small and suburban, Wiseburn offers a unique combination of a "family atmosphere" in an opportunity-rich setting.

There is a well-deserved reputation for educational excellence in Wiseburn. The District offers a personalized learning process focused on mastery of the basic skills, creativity and innovation in a safe, positive and orderly learning environment. Staff members are highly committed and students achieve.

In August 2009, Wiseburn opened two K-12 Charter Schools, Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design, to offer Wiseburn families a high school option for the first time in our 118-year history. The Da Vinci Schools excel academically using project-based learning and strong support from the local aerospace corporations. In August 2011, the Da Vinci Schools launched the Innovation Academy, which provides a two-day per week program that targets the Home School population. In 2013 Da Vinci launched a third high school program, Da Vinci Communications with a Liberal Arts focus.

Capitalizing on the community's approval of an \$87 million bond in November 2010, the District purchased a 13.7 acre site in El Segundo in September 2012. The timeline for Wiseburn unification is July 2014 with the opening of the Wiseburn High School during the 2016-17 school year.





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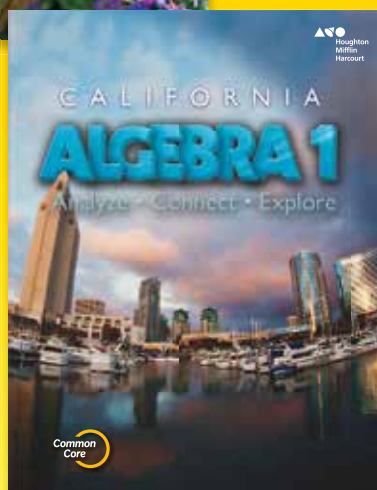
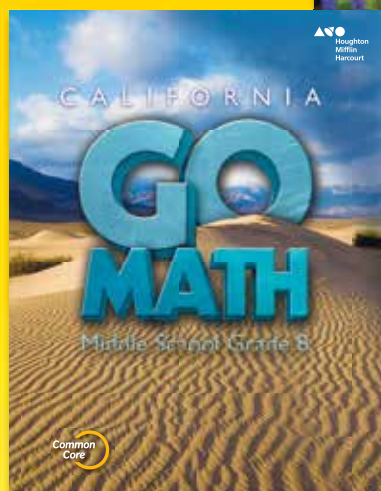
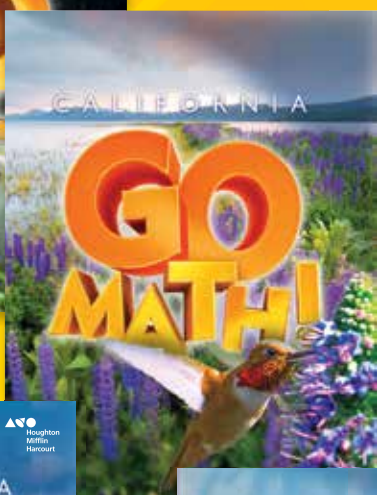




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