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K – 12  
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2012 – 2013

6th  
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- » Tustin Unified School District

## Leading the Way to Student Success



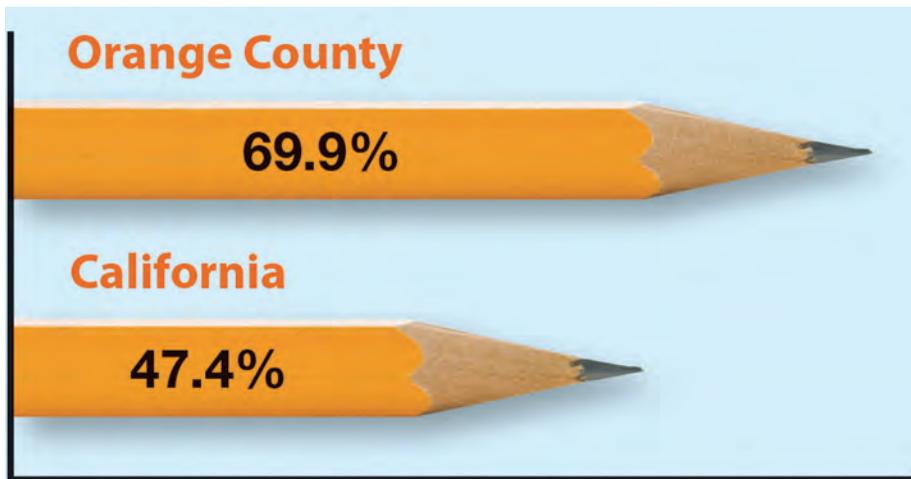
**William M. Habermehl**  
Superintendent  
Emeritus

Orange County's history is rooted in strong entrepreneurial spirits, collaborative ideals, and resilient communities. To continue to thrive, Orange County is dependent on a skilled, well-educated, and diverse workforce. The 21st century student has tremendous potential for innovation and creativity. Their multi-tasking abilities and technological experience call for a revolution in how we teach and engage them to their full capacities.

To ensure competitiveness with the best, both locally and globally, students must gain knowledge, critical thinking skills, and ingenuity. In Orange County, educators inspire and support the success of students by utilizing the technologies that are a part of students' daily lives. Our schools emphasize student engagement and provide a rigorous curriculum with student-driven, self-directed learning that incorporates deeper thinking and problem solving.

### OC Test Scores Continue to Rise

The 2011 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) results show that Orange County student test scores continue to improve. Orange County has higher percentages of students who scored Proficient or Advanced compared to the state as a whole in every grade level. Academic performance as measured by the Academic Performance Index (API), shows that Orange County continues to have the largest percentage of schools meeting the statewide performance goal of 800 or above in comparison to the state and five surrounding counties.

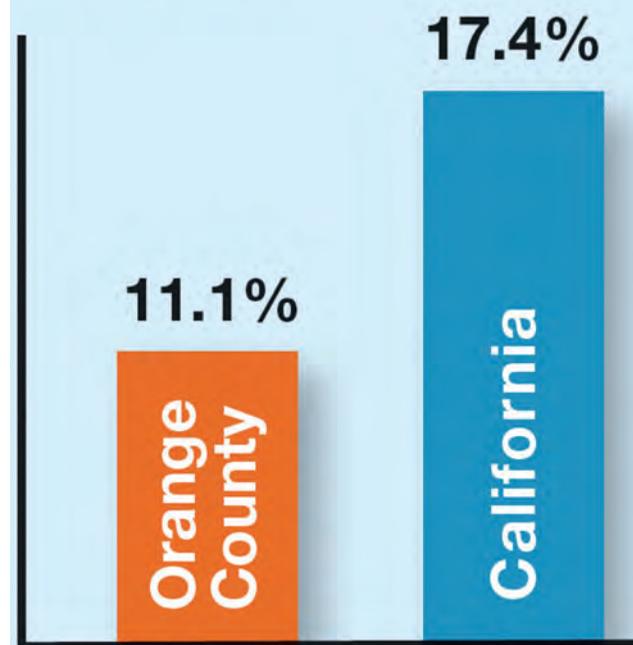


Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit

### Lower Dropout Rates

Ensuring students complete high school is crucial to developing self-sufficient individuals and families. Students who graduate from high school are more likely to earn a living wage and contribute more in taxes. They are also less likely to commit crimes, be incarcerated, or receive government subsidies in the form of public health and welfare costs. Orange County offers educational programs and services that support students, train staff, and improve school climate to prevent students from dropping out of school and to assist those who have dropped out to complete their education. Orange County's Adjusted Four-Year Derived Dropout Rate was 11.1% in 2010, in comparison to the statewide rate of 17.4%.

## Four-Year Derived Dropout Rates 2009-2010



Source: California Department of Education, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS), Adjusted Grade 9-12 Four Year Rate 2009-2010.

Moving forward, there is great opportunity to restructure educational practices by updating academic standards, individualizing instruction, incorporating technology, supporting career technical education, and providing high-quality early childhood experiences to ensure students are prepared to enter kindergarten.

In partnership with businesses, families, and community members, our schools are central to preparing students for the challenges of the future. Through innovation and collaboration, we will leverage resources, improve methods to measure academic effectiveness, and focus on the overall well-being of our young citizens. Orange County will continue to persevere and prosper, while providing a world class education where every student succeeds.

## Reading Electives:

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



This is our sixth edition of the Orange County Superintendent K-12 publication.

The quality of our communities are directly related to the quality of our public schools. The brief articles herein are only an introduction. Please visit the individual school district web sites for information. This issue is posted in its entirety on our web site [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com). In addition to their individual web site many districts post information on Facebook and Twitter.

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**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny  
**CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:** Neta Madison  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Laura Brune



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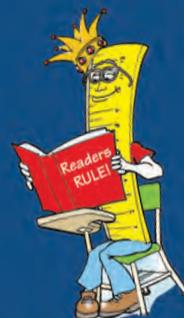


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## Anaheim City School District

1001 S. East St., Anaheim, CA 92805  
714/517-7500 www.acsd.k12.ca.us

# Excellence for Elementary Students



**Jose' Banda**  
Superintendent

Anaheim City School District provides a high-quality education to the 19,300 K-6 students in its 24 schools. Results from the 2011 California Standards Test (CST) showed that overall student performance in ACSD made significant gains on the Academic Performance Index (API). The overall District API of 773 is just 27 points shy of the state's benchmark of 800. Also, 19 of 24 schools met their school wide API target in 2011 and the District API growth of 18 points is more than double that of the State.

Traditionally under-performing student groups also made large gains.

The Anaheim City School District provides an instructional program that reflects high expectations for all students and that focuses on mastery of the standards. Rigorous and challenging, the District's curriculum ensures that students become literate, self-directed and interactive learners, proficient technology users, effective communicators, adaptable problem solvers, critical thinkers, cooperative workers, and productive, involved citizens. Instructional practices are well planned, include interactive activities appropriate to students' developmental levels, and support the achievement of every student. Assessment is a natural part of the instructional process and facilitates improvement of teaching and learning.

The district's core curriculum consists of literacy, numeracy, science, social studies, the arts, and physical education. A taskforce, the Rigorous Curriculum Design team, is currently reviewing and aligning the curriculum with the California Common Core Standards (CCCS). It will complete pacing of standards and two units of study for each grade level, provide professional development on science and technology integration to grade four through six teachers, and create classroom schedules that include core curriculum content.

## Anaheim Union High School District

501 Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92803  
714/999-3511 www.auhsd.us

# Connected Learning



**Dr. Elizabeth I. Novack**  
Superintendent

The Anaheim Union High School District provides educational programs and services to approximately 32,000 seventh through twelfth grade students residing in Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, La Palma, and Stanton. Across the District, there is a commitment to 21st Century education, which links college and career readiness skills and content knowledge to the world. Our 23 Career Technical Education pathways in 12 industries are connected to real world learning, providing articulation with community college pathways, while ensuring students meet the a-g requirements of the University of California and California State University systems.

Despite budgetary challenges, our District has maintained its strong commitment to the arts, athletic programs, and extra-curricular activities. For many students, these programs provide a crucial connection to their school-house and assist them in developing skills that translate into real-life success. More than 6,500 students participate in high school athletics, more than 8,000 take advantage of intramural competition, 9,000 are involved in activities, and 20,600 are enrolled in visual and performing arts classes. Our students have also forged strong connections to our community through their deep involvement and service to our families and their fellow classmates.

Our Seal of Biliteracy program prepares students to be responsible and productive in a global society through a mastery of English and a second language, including Spanish, Japanese, French, Korean, and/or Mandarin.

Our programs and services connect our students to a successful future and underscore our vision: graduating socially aware, civic-minded students who are college and career ready for the 21st Century.

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## Brea–Olinda Unified School District

1 Civic Center Dr., Brea, CA 92821  
714/990-7800 www.bousd.k12.ca.us

### Using Compass 2020 to Sustain Excellence



**Dr. Arthur J. "Skip" Roland**  
Superintendent

Travelers have often relied on a compass to guide their way through uncharted territory and seas. The Brea Olinda Unified School District has developed its own Compass 2020 strategic plan to guide the district toward sustaining and expanding the traditions of excellence for which BOUSD is known.

Each year, BOUSD schools and staff are recognized for excellence and achievement. In 2012, Fanning and Mariposa Elementary Schools were named California Distinguished Schools. Brea Olinda High School continues to receive awards from the *OC Register*, *Newsweek*, and the *Orange County Business Council* for being a top high school in Orange County. Our schools' API scores continue to grow, with all nine schools well over 800 and four schools over 900!

Our students' success stories begin in elementary school and culminate with approximately 95% of our high school graduating class planning to attend college next year! The learning experiences that we provide allowed this group of seniors to earn over \$4 million in scholarships and awards!

Our commitment to Character Education is founded on our strongly held belief that preparation for success in life is not complete if we do not help support our families in developing positive core values and resilient attitudes in all our students.

Finally, creating opportunities for students to express and showcase their talents and skills through the arts, athletics, and career pathways help to make a Brea Olinda Unified School District education one that makes the road to future success in school and life clear and defined.

## Buena Park School District

6885 Orangethorpe Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620  
714/522-8412 www.bpsd.k12.ca.us

### BPSD: Cornerstone of the Community



**Greg Magnuson**  
Superintendent

In an environment of challenging circumstances for many in our community, Buena Park School District staff and families realize that schools are truly the cornerstone of the community. As each day presents an opportunity for success for our students, BPSD teaching and non-teaching staff seek to ensure each child is ready to learn; empowered to achieve at the highest levels; and upon promotion prepared for the demands of high school.

In 2011-12, BPSD student academic achievement and District-wide successes were recognized in several ways including: a seventh straight year of growth in California's Academic Performance Index; award of our first National Blue Ribbon School; over 120 8th grade Presidential scholars; and matriculation of 90% of our 8th graders to the nationally acclaimed Sunny Hills, Troy and Buena Park High Schools.

In addition to rigorous academic study, students that attend our schools benefit from community partnerships, before and after-school programs and social services that provide working parents with confidence that their children will have a wide range of opportunities and access to dedicated and caring staff; engaging curriculum; and necessary support services.

BPSD staff is honored to provide programs and services that not only benefit our students, but also extend support to our local families. At BPSD, we take great pride in *Improving the Lives of Our Students and Families* in the Buena Park and North Orange County communities.

We welcome you to visit one of our seven campuses and website at [www.bpsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.bpsd.k12.ca.us).

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~Henry Brooks Adams



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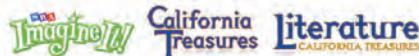
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## Capistrano Unified School District

33122 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675  
949/234-9200 www.capousd.org

# Continuing Innovation & Achievement



**Dr. Joseph Farley**  
Superintendent

The communities of the Capistrano Unified School District can be proud of the District's many years of success and recognition. District schools have been repeatedly recognized as the best in the state and country, earning many California Distinguished School awards and national Blue Ribbon School recognition.

During the 2011-2012 school year, four of our schools were again recognized as California Distinguished Schools and all of our qualified high school campuses were identified among the best in the nation by a national news magazine. A California consortium of businesses also honored 30 of our schools this year for their consistently high achievement levels.

The District has also implemented a number of innovative programs that will provide additional opportunities for students to succeed in the global marketplace. This year our Board of Trustees approved Orange County's first public school Mandarin Immersion Program. Representing another instructional innovation, California Preparatory Academy is a newly developed virtual high school currently accepting student applications for September. Additionally, our California Virtual Academy will provide online opportunities for students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

These accomplishments reflect our ongoing focus on what happens in the District's classrooms, where almost all instruction takes place. We want our graduates to be prepared to compete and succeed in the "post-secondary school world," including higher education, specialized career training, and the workplace.

## Centralia School District

6625 La Palma Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620  
714/228-3100 www.cesd.k12.ca.us

# Instructional Guidance Team



**Dr. Diane Scheerhorn**  
Superintendent

In schools, nothing matters more than a quality education for students. That begins with the quality of the teachers and leaders. Great leaders provide support so teachers can excel in instruction allowing students to excel in their learning, regardless of the level where their learning begins. Centralia School District has created an Instructional Guidance Team combining both great teachers and leaders.

The team is structured to acknowledge and foster the vital role teachers play in providing curriculum and instructional leadership putting educators at the center of professional development and school success. This team shares leadership responsibilities, brokers an exchange of knowledge and builds a group learning, knowledge-based collection of best practices.

Summer projects include refinement of standards-based report cards, aligning trimester benchmark tests to essential standards pacing charts and creating writing rubrics that align with common core writing standards and exemplars.

Team members and principals use the Adaptive School Model with shared leadership and members trained to wear many hats whether facilitating meetings, presenting information, coaching or consulting on curriculum and instruction. Team members are the "trainers of trainers" disseminating information to all our teaching staff on the use of the web-based IntelAssess program, a tool that allows us to develop complete formative assessments using data to drive student achievement. We have several certified SMART trainers going beyond the basics with extensive hands-on training providing skills necessary to deliver high-quality training for interactive SMART technology.

The Instructional Guidance Team will provide teachers the opportunity to break out of their four classroom walls and become leaders in curriculum and instruction ensuring student achievement.

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## Cypress School District

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### Paving the Pathway



**Beverly M. Hempstead**  
Superintendent

High student achievement has always been a top priority for Cypress School District. In reviewing this past year's accomplishments, it is clear Cypress School District has paved the pathway for ongoing high student achievement and 21st Century Learning.

With each of Cypress School District's schools recognized as a California Distinguished School, this year an emphasis was placed on enriching the instructional program and integrating technology into all curricular areas. The use of a web-based program, Study Island, was launched and assisted teachers and parents with ongoing monitoring of student progress and support in meeting grade level standards aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

At one of our schools, we will offer a seven week summer pilot academy to reinforce important skills and engage students in critical thinking activities designed especially for each individual student. Advanced learners will participate in a teacher-led book study for the first half of the academy and advanced-level math curriculum during the second half of the summer session.

While maintaining a strong focus on Differentiated Instruction, each school refined its Response to Instruction and Intervention structure to meet each child's instructional needs. Rich professional development programs have been provided to support critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills required for 21st Century Learning.

There is a saying, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others."

I look forward to continuing the journey together with others while providing the support for 21st Century Learning.

## Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
714/843-3200 www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us

### 21st Century Classrooms



**Dr. Marc Ecker**  
Superintendent

In October, 2011, a team of administrators and board members traveled up to Cupertino at the invitation of Apple to see what 21st century learning is all about. We spent two days at Apple and had our eyes opened to the possibilities for those school districts with the leadership to move classroom teaching to a new level. That 21st century learning model is defined as the creation of a learning environment where access to information is not limited by the walls of the classroom, the material in a textbook or the knowledge of the teacher. We are not talking about one particular piece of technology or one web based program or even one wireless network. We are talking about an image, a philosophy, a belief that only when students and teachers have the resources to solve difficult problems and to explore the creative imagination of the digital universe will we truly enter a 21st century classroom.

While we were at Apple Headquarters we had the chance to experience the benefits, when the limits to information for students and teachers are removed from the teaching/learning relationship, virtual visits to Australia and Finland. We returned back home to begin work on our own technology vision plan. The Board has adopted the new plan which outlines a path by which to travel to complete our mission.

Unfortunately as a result of the budget cuts to California schools, funding for our students is near the bottom of the nation. It falls upon our community to move the digital dial for our students. Therefore a resolution has been adopted to place a Fountain Valley School District technology bond measure on the November ballot. Fountain Valley School District has always been at or near the top of county academic performance. The need to keep our competitiveness and to assure that all of our students have access to a true 21st century education will now lie on the shoulders of the voters of our community.

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## Fullerton School District

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833  
714/447-7400 www.fsd.k12.ca.us

### High Academic Standards



**Dr. Robert Pletka**  
Superintendent

Education of today's young people is the most vital activity we can undertake to ensure the well being of our nation. Working in today's public schools coupled with the art of teaching is a profession characterized by skill, knowledge, discipline, tenacity, perseverance and creativity in the delivery of instruction to meet the diverse educational, social and personal needs of each child.

Fullerton School District educates over 13,700 children from the Fullerton community in fifteen K-6 elementary schools, two K-8 schools, three comprehensive junior high schools and a variety of preschool/childcare programs. District and school site staff work diligently to promote high academic standards as

well as help students apply knowledge and skills learned in preparation for moving all students to proficiency and achieving success in today's society.

Working alongside District and school site staff, parent support and involvement in educating children is extremely important to the success of all students. To this end, Fullerton School District values the partnership with its parent and business community. It is through the spirit of collaboration and teamwork that helps to ensure that our students will be successful and well prepared for their future in the 21st century.

It is our belief that all students in the Fullerton School District can and will learn, achieve and grow each year. Our motto, "Great Schools - Successful Kids" exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic proficiency, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society.

## Fullerton Joint Union High School District

1051 W. Bastanchury Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833  
714/870-2801 www.fjuhsd.k12.ca.us

### Positive Tone & Vision



**Dr. George Giokaris**  
Superintendent

Serving more than 15,000 students, the District works to ensure that all students learn how to learn to become responsible citizens and contributing adults. District operations and programs emphasize moral and civic values education.

The Board of Trustees sets the positive tone and vision, creating the productive environment where the strong belief in the mission to all students and the communities served is firmly established. This dedication, mutual respect, collective responsibility, and belief in improvement and the potential of all students form the foundation of all District successes.

By working as partners with the parents and the communities served, recruiting and keeping dedicated and highly skilled employees, and paying very close attention and effectively working to meet the needs of all students by supporting their intellectual, social, civic, creative, emotional, and athletic development, the District has gained statewide, national, and worldwide recognition. Since 1990, District schools have been awarded California Distinguished School recognition 17 times, three National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, California Model Continuation High School, five comprehensive schools ranked in the top 5% nationwide based upon AP/IB programs in 2012, national Science Olympiad champions eight times, best Speech and Debate program in the nation in 2008 and in California in 2011, best Agriculture program in the Western United States in 2009, all five JROTC programs were recognized as Distinguished Units in 2012.

It's all about the students and meeting their needs through ethical relationships among all District members. In the 2009 survey, 99% of the staff members believe that the District is a good place to work; 96% of the parents are satisfied with the schools; and 90% of the students are satisfied with the overall learning environment at the schools.

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## Huntington Beach City School District

20451 Cramer Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92640  
714/964-8888 www.hbcasd.k12.ca.us

# Working Together for Excellence



**Gregory Hauk**  
Superintendent

The Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD) continues to pursue excellence for our students and our community. We are very proud of our efforts during the last school year where once again HBCSD schools were honored by the State of California as distinguished.

Excellence is defined as a state of excelling and the students in our seven elementary schools and two middle schools continue to excel in the classroom, in the arts, on the stage, and in their community. This commitment to excellence is modeled by our teachers, our support staff, and our community on a daily basis.

HBCSD has partnered with our Parent/Teacher Associations, the Huntington Beach Educational Foundation, and the Huntington Beach Arts Council to provide many opportunities for our students to develop and show their skills in a variety of areas.

We are excited to begin another school year, one where once again our students will work and learn from the very best teachers and staff, utilize outstanding facilities and participate in activities that will continue their pursuit of 21st century skills. Once again, HBCSD will collaborate with our community and our educational partners so that each student can become responsible, well-rounded individuals who achieve success and fulfillment in a global economy.

## Huntington Beach Union High School District

5832 Bolsa Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92649  
714/903-7000 www.hbuhsd.org

# Yearbooks—Record of Connections



**Dr. Greg S. Plutko**  
Superintendent

“Hey did you buy your yearbook?” I certainly hope so... Yearbooks have been a strong contributor to the fabric of schools for over 100 years. As we close what has been another outstanding year of learning and opportunity in the Huntington Beach Union High School District, the importance of marking time and accomplishments through the yearbook is timeless. Of course many of us can recall that before today’s term of yearbook, this storybook of pictures was always known as the “Annual.” The hard-covered bound creation of our high school memories is truly a labor of love and commitment to one’s alma mater. I would be remiss to not thank yearbook students and advisors across our district for their passion and excellence...of course you can actually follow the increase in delivery pizza stock values near each of the harrowing deadlines! The ability to look at yearbooks over time would show the connection we all have from one graduating class to another. The now tattered and well worn “Annual” from Huntington Beach High School in 1916 still features class photos, description of dances, stories about being late to class, and some of the infamous “most likely to...” awards. Turn to the back and you will see the same supportive community advertisements, and pages dedicated to signatures of classmates and teachers. Over time the yearbook takes on a life of its own, holding on its pages the sounds of laughter, debate, and conversations of what later became life-long friends. Although we have seen the transition from slates to chalkboards to whiteboards to smart-boards and now virtual-boards during those many years, we all carry consistent foundations, experiences, and traditions that forever link us to high school. I want to thank our amazing school staffs and our supportive families and communities for the excellence that is Huntington Beach Union...oh and just for fun, go ahead find that old yearbook, make the kids promise not to laugh at your class photo and take them through your high school journey!

## School News

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- Capistrano Unified (30,000)
- Centralia, Cypress, Savanna Districts (25,000)
- Los Alamitos Unified (23,000)
- Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach Union High School, Ocean View & Westminster Districts (30,000)
- Orange Unified (25,000)
- Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified (15,000)
- Tustin Unified (20,000)
- Newport-Mesa Unified (30,000)



Annual OC Superintendent  
July (20,000)



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## Irvine Unified School District

5050 Barranca Pkwy., Irvine, CA 92604  
949/936-5250 www.iusd.org

# Engaging and Educating Students



**Terry Walker**  
Superintendent

With technology rapidly reshaping our world, the challenge for educators isn't to obtain the latest and greatest gadgets and devices. Instead, our charge is to thoughtfully and strategically determine how best to leverage new tools to support the talents of our teachers, as well as the individual needs of each student.

The Irvine Unified School District took a major step in that direction last year, when our Board of Education approved the purchase and implementation of a computerized Learning Management System that will serve an all-in-one warehouse for student learning data while supporting other critical needs, including assessments, professional development, communication and collaboration.

The Learning Management System may sound complicated, but it's really about streamlining the work of our teachers, principals and educational support staff, and giving them state-of-the-art resources to fully leverage their expertise. At the same time, we recognize that this is a comprehensive system, so we've put in place a strategic multi-year implementation plan to ensure an effective and thoughtful transition.

Irvine students, parents and staff are going to hear more about new technology initiatives in the months and years ahead as we continue to emulate – and, in many instances, pioneer – best practices. Yet we know that IUSD's trajectory will always be tied to great teaching. In the end, our mission is to secure the tools that free our educators from some of their more burdensome tasks, enabling them to do what they do best – provide a personalized learning experience that engages and educates each of our 28,000 students.

## La Habra City School District

500 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631  
562/690-2305 www.lahabraschools.org

# Opening Doors to 21st Century Learning



**Dr. Susan Belenardo**  
Superintendent

Our schools open the doors to our students' future. In the La Habra City School District we are looking forward to a new school year with great anticipation of the new opportunities that will be available for our students.

In Fall 2012 the La Habra City School District will open the doors to two new Middle School Academies. While continuing to emphasize a rigorous core curriculum and integrating next generation technology, each middle school will build its curriculum around a specific focus to provide students more opportunities to explore areas of interest. Imperial Middle School, the Academy of the Arts, will focus on the fine arts and Washington Middle School, the School of Academics, will focus on Math/Science/Technology.

All students need new skills to be successful in a global economy. In the 21st Century students must demonstrate their understanding in ways they haven't done in the past. In the La Habra City School District our programs have always focused on educating the whole child and providing all students multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning. With additional state of the art technology available in classrooms and a focus on project based learning, students will have even more opportunities to develop critical thinking skills through problem solving.

By ensuring that all students have the opportunity to access a 21st Century educational program, we are guaranteeing them the future they each deserve. To learn more about La Habra City School District, please visit our website at [www.lahabraschools.org](http://www.lahabraschools.org).

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## Laguna Beach Unified School District

550 Blumont St., Laguna Beach, CA 92651  
949/497-7700 www.lbusd.org

# Producing Citizens of the 21st Century



**Sherine Smith**  
Superintendent

Laguna Beach Unified School District has long been recognized as the gold standard of education. Our students are among the highest-achieving students in the state, nation, and world. We are dedicated to the whole child concept and strive to ensure each student is healthy, safe, engaged in learning, supported by caring adults, and academically challenged.

We teach our students the skills necessary to be successful in college and careers, including the 21st century skills of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Our students participate in a wide array of athletics, activities, and learning experiences to form a strong foundation for future success.

Laguna Beach students graduate from high school with the skills to compete in the global economy. Of equal importance, our graduates develop sound character, a social conscience, a deep awareness of global problems, and a history of community service.

Student achievement has increased year over year in Laguna Beach Unified School District and our district-wide Academic Performance Index is 904, far surpassing the 800 API State benchmark of excellence. The College Board, *Orange County Register*, California Department of Education, *U.S. News and World Report*, and California Business for Education Excellence recognize Laguna Beach as an exemplary school district. With a dedicated school board, excellent teachers, principals, and staff, and a supportive, invested community, we are proud to offer the gold standard of education.

## Los Alamitos Unified School District

10293 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720  
562/799-4700 www.losa.org

# Igniting Unlimited Possibilities



**Dr. Sherry Kropp**  
Superintendent

Los Alamitos Unified School District continued to *Ignite Unlimited Possibilities for Students*. Talented and highly skilled teachers and staff in all of our schools, pre-school through high school, inspired graduates to make significant advances in academics, athletics, activities, and the arts. Sixty-nine percent of the graduates met a-g college entrance requirements and earned the Award of Merit. Thirty-nine Griffins were celebrated on signing days for committing to Division 1 NCAA Athletic Scholarships. We celebrated 10 Sunset League Championships, a Southern Section Championship for girl's lacrosse, and a CIF Championship in girl's volleyball. Show

Choir, Varsity Cheer, and JV Song earned national championships. Innovation is on display at sites across all levels. iPads and other technologies were used to increase student learning. Pilot programs yielding promising results were implemented in reading, writing, and mathematics. Rigorous curriculum and engaging instructional strategies were implemented in classrooms. And, learning is year-round in Los Al. Intervention, enrichment, and preparatory courses are offered during the summer through the District and the Los Alamitos Education Foundation.

In addition to outstanding educational programs, modernization projects continued, *on time and on budget*. All sites are being modernized, resulting in facilities that maximize student learning, facilitate technology implementation, and instill community pride.

As I complete the first year as Superintendent, I am grateful and honored to work alongside such amazing and talented Board members, teachers, staff, parents, and community members. Together, we will continue to improve the lives and futures of our amazing students!

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## Lowell Joint School District

11019 Valley Home Ave., Whittier, CA 90603  
562/943-0211 www.ljsd.org

# A 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 has one of the highest Academic Performance Index (API) scores as compared to junior high schools in the area.

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. An independent study program is provided for families wishing to home school their children. The District is committed to providing a strong academic program of basic skills having achieved API scores in the 800'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 three 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.

## Newport-Mesa Unified School District

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
714/424-5000 www.nmusd.us

# New Superintendent



**Dr. Fred Navarro**  
Superintendent

Newport-Mesa Unified School District will begin the 2012/13 school year with a new leader. The District is pleased to welcome Dr. Fred Navarro to serve as superintendent. Dr. Navarro comes to N-MUSD with more than 30 years of experience. He is currently the Superintendent of Lennox School District in Lennox, California. Dr. Navarro will officially begin his tenure with Newport-Mesa on August 1, 2012. "I am honored to have been named superintendent for the Newport-Mesa Unified School District," stated Dr. Navarro. "This is an opportunity of a lifetime and I look forward to working alongside the Board of Trustees, the staff and faculty, and the parents to ensure that every child succeeds and is prepared to thrive in a 21st Century economy."

Newport-Mesa held an extensive search process and received over 50 applications. After initial screening and background checks, the Board interviewed 6 candidates. The finalists were forwarded for interviews by the 26 member Community Interview Committee. After considerable discussion, the Board selected Dr. Fred Navarro as its top candidate. "Dr. Navarro is a dedicated professional who cares deeply about educating all students. His integrity is above reproach, he is accessible, a good communicator and finds ways to get things done. We believe he will serve our students in an outstanding manner," stated President Dave Brooks.

According to Dr. Robert Barbot, Interim Superintendent and Search Consultant, "Throughout the search process, the Board reflected on the comments received from the community. Input received produced several top priorities including: a track record of accomplishments, focus on treating all communities the same, student and teacher advocate, integrity and experience, ability to make tough decisions, bilingual, and, a vision for creating new and better opportunities for all students."

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**Mesa Consolidated Water District**

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## Ocean View School District

17200 Pinehurst Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
**714/847-2551** www.ovsd.org

## Tradition of Excellence



**Dr. William V. Loose**  
 Superintendent

It is with great pride that I acknowledge all schools in the Ocean View School District as award winning schools. Thirteen schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools, six schools as Title 1 Academic Achieving Schools, three schools as Golden Bell winners, one school as a NASA Explorer School, and two schools received the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award.

Ocean View is extremely proud of our two distinguished elementary schools for 2012, Golden View and Star View. Star View's Principal, Dr. Pauline Tressler, along with her writing team of Jennifer Mullin, Tony Dybas, and Margaret Dalley were accompanied by Principal of Golden View, Elaine Burney, and her writing team of Julie Neubert, Christine Earl, and Sara Ostovapour to the recognition celebration held in Ontario, California.

The celebration was held on May 4. State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, presented the well-deserved awards to Star View and Golden View for their innovative education programs that encourage students to learn. These awards recognize the incredible commitment of the teachers and staff of these elementary schools who inspire our students and dedicate themselves to student achievement. In addition, Ocean View's Marine View Middle School Jazz Choir, under the direction of Lynn Silver, was the featured entertainment at the ceremony. The choir also provided musical entertainment at the reception following the awards presentation.

This recognition and celebration of these two schools in Ocean View is the ideal way to spotlight the accomplishments of our District and a wonderful way to conclude our school year. We continue to celebrate the successes of each of our schools and to focus on preparing our students for careers in the 21st Century.

## Orange Unified School District

1401 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867  
**714/628-4040** www.orangeusd.org

## Student-Centered Focus



**Michael Christensen**  
 Superintendent

The Orange Unified School District (OUSD) has been very proactive in dealing with the fiscal crisis that has played havoc with California school districts since the 2008-09 school year. We are extremely fortunate to have employees and trustees who understand that our mission is to continue to provide the best education possible for our students in spite of the fiscal challenges. The cooperation of our employee groups and the reasonable bargaining positions of our trustees have worked in unison to provide a learning environment that focuses on moving students forward.

The District's Academic Performance Index (API) scores continue to excel with a 17-point increase from 806 to 823 this past school year. This 17-point gain was the largest increase for a K-12 Unified School District in Orange County in 2011. I believe we will continue to increase in student achievement again this year. Additionally, our English Learner students are doing better than ever as their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills increase. The hard work of our students, teachers and leadership staff are evidenced by, not only our increasing test scores, but also by the recognitions earned by our schools. Two of our elementary schools, Canyon Rim and Linda Vista, were recognized as California Distinguished Schools for 2011. Moreover, Fairhaven Elementary has been nominated for the National Blue Ribbon Award – recognition afforded only 35 schools in California this year!

Orange Unified School District is a district with a student-centered focus where individuals are celebrated as they progress in their personal mission to achieve their best. That is only possible through the unwavering support of our parents, teachers, support staff and trustees with whom I am proud to serve.

## Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

1301 Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870  
714/986-7000 www.pylusd.org

### Where the Future Happens



**Doug Domene**  
Superintendent

What an honor it is to assume the reins of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. I look forward with much anticipation to continuing the legacy faithfully built by my predecessors.

While I am new to this position, I am by no means new to the PYLUSD. It has been my pleasure to be part of this district for 26 years during which time it has become abundantly clear that one of our district's greatest strengths is its capacity to meld the talents of our outstanding teachers, our devoted support personnel, talented administrators and our caring, loyal community to create a bright future for students every day.

Visionary Apple co-founder Steve Jobs once stated, "Everyone here has the sense that right now is one of those moments when we are influencing the future." In the PYLUSD we recognize that our collective efforts today will prepare students for an ever-changing future. That is why the PYLUSD has positioned itself to provide the best educational experience we can envision—from state-of-the-art learning environments matched with first-rate educators to high quality music, athletic and enrichment programs. PYLUSD is where the future happens.

The results are exceptional.

- 28 National Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished Schools
- 95% of graduates attend college/university
- 9,000+ students participate in our highly-acclaimed music program
- 2012 Orange County Academic Decathlon Champions
- High schools ranked in Newsweek's Top 1,000 Best High Schools in America

These accomplishments and many more are what students experience in the award-winning Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

## Saddleback Valley Unified School District

25632 Peter Hartman Way., Mission Viejo, CA 92691  
949/586-1234 www.svusd.k12.ca.us

### Singular Focus—Students First



**Dr. Clint Harwick**  
Superintendent

Every day over 2,800 dedicated employees, energetic volunteers, supportive community members, and local agencies invest in the nearly 31,000 students in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

Our dedicated team, with a singular focus to put students first, has led to rising API scores, championship athletic teams, professionally recognized performing arts, and day-to-day successes in each and every classroom.

It takes only a short visit to one of our many successful educational settings to realize that students are engaged, moving forward, and garnering skills that will help them be productive members of other teams in the future. This concept of bringing individual talents to a greater unit is a cornerstone of the family culture created in a district that serves five cities and multiple neighborhoods including Laguna Hills, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita and Trabuco Canyon.

SVUSD schools offer a unique emphasis in science, language arts, performing arts, second language immersion, environmental education and AP and IB Classes. Technology is used to enhance student learning at all grade levels and makes our students and staff some of the recognized leaders in educational technology advances. The wide variety of offerings has led to 30 California Distinguished Schools and 13 national Blue Ribbon Schools.

With the help of a strong support staff, dedicated administrators and highly qualified teachers we know that we make a difference in the lives of children, one investment at a time.

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Schools that host assemblies between September and May will be entered to win an Inside the Outdoors® field trip!

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## Santa Ana Unified School District

1601 E. Chestnut Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92701  
 714/558-5512 www.sausd.us

### College and Career Ready



**Dr. Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana**  
 Superintendent

- 56,000 enrollment • 61 schools, Grades K-12
- 6th largest school district in California, the largest in Orange County.
- Motto: Preparing All Students to be College and Career Ready

Everything we do in the Santa Ana Unified School District is guided by the critical goal of preparing our students academically so they succeed in college, in their careers, and in all aspects of their lives. By focusing on “Preparing All Students to be College and Career Ready,” our teachers, staff, administrators and parents send the powerful message to our students that their success is our top priority. SAUSD students excelled once again this past school year as “Difference Makers,” CIF Champions, Gates Scholars, campus leaders, and mentors. Also once more, district schools earned major honors for their outstanding academic achievement and improvement. Muir Fundamental and Thorpe Fundamental both received the National Blue Ribbon School Award, while four other schools received Title 1 Academic Achieving School Awards. Taft Elementary was one of just 50 schools nationwide to receive a grant from Target to establish an innovative lab integrating literacy and physical activity. Meanwhile, Jackson Elementary received the California School Board Association Golden Bell Award, and 20 schools were named California Distinguished Schools – the largest number of recipients in our district’s history.

Despite significant budget cutbacks the past several years due to the state’s economic challenges, our district has avoided layoffs and furlough days while maintaining a 180-day school year. The Santa Ana Unified School District benefits from a strong Board of Education, dedicated teachers, motivated students, involved parents, and community support. As a result, SAUSD is, and will continue to be, admired as one of America’s leading urban school districts.

## Savanna School District

1330 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804  
 714/236-3800 www.savsd.k12.ca.us

### A Special Place to Be



**Dr. Sue Johnson**  
 Superintendent

What a special place Savanna School District is! Savanna School District, encompassing parts of the cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress and Stanton, is an elementary school district with approximately 2400 students. These students attend one of our four schools: Cerritos, Hansen, Holder and Twila Reid Schools.

Our philosophy of “Great Expectations...The Best Is Yet To Come” can be evidenced through our positive learning environment and strong academic program that focuses on reading, writing, and mathematics. We strive to develop all students to their individual capacity to prepare them for future learning experiences. Great Expectations can also be evidenced in our

reading program that provides a balanced approach with the integration of phonics and literature throughout all grade levels as well as in our writing program that provides students with a systematic structure for learning writing skills while providing opportunities for regular writing assignments appropriate for each grade level. Our Great Expectations are demonstrated in math where concepts and skills taught reflect those identified in the state standards. History/social science, science, health, physical education, music and art are integral parts of the K-6 educational program in Savanna School District. Technology is integrated as an essential component throughout the instructional program.

The entire Savanna School District staff and Board of Trustees welcomes you to the 2012-13 school year and look forward to a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate ‘The Best Is Yet To Come’ as we prepare our students to be successful, contributing members of the community. Savanna School District truly is a special place to be!

## Tustin Unified School District

300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780  
714/730-7339 www.tustin.k12.ca.us

# Students, Staff & Schools Shine



**Dr. Gregory A. Franklin**  
Superintendent

During my first year in the Tustin Unified School District, I continue to be very impressed by the quality of our schools – excellent teachers and support staff, strong administrative leaders and engaged parents. Among the year's highlights:

- Two Tustin Unified teachers were selected as Orange County Teachers of the Year: David Goldenberg of Beckman High School and Jennifer Sandland of Peters Canyon Elementary School.
- Hicks Canyon Elementary School was named a 2012 California Distinguished School.
- Beckman, Foothill and Tustin high schools were named to *U.S. News & World Report's* list of the top high schools in the nation. Beckman and Foothill were also included on *Newsweek's* list of the best high schools.
- Approximately 27 Early College students from Beckman and Tustin high schools earned their Associate of Arts degrees from Irvine Valley College – three weeks before their high school graduation.
- Ribbons were cut on Foothill High's new Event Center, and Tustin High's Sports Pavilion, pool and Science Center.
- Ground was broken on four new activity centers/P.E. facilities at Columbus Tustin, Currie, Hewes and Utt middle schools.
- The District continues to integrate technology into the teaching/learning process: interactive whiteboards, teacher computer, digital camera and Internet connection in almost every classroom; and at least one computer lab in every school.

It was a remarkable year, and I anticipate that 2012-13 will be even better as we continue to focus on technology in the classroom and prepare our students for college and their chosen careers in the 21st century. Go TUSD!

## Westminster School District

14121 Cedarwood Ave., Westminster, CA 92683  
714/894-7311 www.wsd.k12.ca.us

# A.R.F.!



**Richard Tauer**  
Superintendent

This year was the second year of a three-year commitment we made to focus on the goals that our Board of Trustees developed. We affectionately refer to the goals as "A.R.F." (achievement, resources and facilities). By working together on these goals, aligning our efforts, refining our practices and focusing on our work, we knew we could make positive strides towards improving student learning and success. I am very proud of our staff, students and parents that worked diligently all year towards these goals.

**Achievement** – All students will graduate from middle school prepared to succeed academically and socially in high school, pass the CAHSEE, and pursue post secondary choices.

**Resources** - Ensure that the fiscal resources of the district are aligned to the student achievement goal and maximized to provide the richest learning environment possible.

**Facilities** - Maintain safe and clean facilities that support learning and provide extended services or programs for our diverse community and provide all students access to 21st century tools and diverse learning opportunities to prepare them for their future in a global economy.

One of the important ways we support our Board Goals is by using what we call "The Essential Elements," which includes:

- Focusing on learning rather than teaching
- Working collaboratively
- Monitoring and measuring student progress on a frequent and timely basis
- And building the capacity of students and staff

We accomplished a great deal this year and there are many positive things happening throughout the district. We are clearly on the right path and we look forward to our continued commitment to the A.R.F. goals next year.

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## The Central Orange County CTE Partnership

2323 N. Broadway, Suite 301, Santa Ana, CA 92706  
714/966-3528 www.OCde.us/ctep

### Cooking Up Change



**Diana S. Schneider**  
Senior Director

Today's Career Technical Education is designed to inspire and challenge all students to become the creative problem-solvers of tomorrow, and in Orange County, opportunities abound. On May 21, 2012, three students from SAUSD's High School Inc. Culinary Academy were honored by Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, and spoke to Congress about their award-winning healthy recipes. Using only ingredients found in school cafeterias, Ashley Blanco, Alex Hernandez and Ivan Lopez won the Cooking Up Change contest by creating the most delicious meal for under \$1.00. The winning menu? Lemon-Spinach Chicken, Tuscan Bean Salad and Cinnamon Poached Pears.

On April 23, 2012, more than 300 representatives of business, government and education attended the Additive Manufacturing Users Group conference, where the RapidTech<sup>HIS</sup> Model Programs Partnership held its first high school Student Design Competition. The competition showcased the creativity of 13 teams in the new cutting-edge technology of Rapid Prototyping. Projects were judged by 38 industry volunteers and included entries in 3D Media, Automotive and Consumer Products design. First Place went to Cesar Pescador, Los Amigos High, for creating a unique 3-wheeled vehicle; Second Place: Sara Ronquillo and Rebecca Martinez, El Modena High; and Third Place: Angelo Reyna, Eduardo Perand Roberto Gonzalez, Century High.

To attract new economic opportunities, Orange County needs a pool of talented young people who have the knowledge, confidence and ambition to tackle careers in "STEM" —Science Technology, Engineering and Math. Career Technical Education, with its practical application of core academics, is motivating thousands of students to prepare for both College and Careers.

### Coastline ROP

1001 Presidio Square, Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
714/979-1955 www.coastlinerop.net

### Celebrating 40 Years



**Darlene Le Fort**  
Superintendent

This year Coastline ROP celebrated 40 years of providing successful career technical education. The saying, "You've come a long way, baby" rang true as staff reflected upon the growth and progress of the organization. In 1971, Coastline ROP teachers opened their classroom doors to 95 students eager to attain entry-level job skills and prepare for the workplace. At that time, ROP courses had a relatively narrow focus and emphasized job-specific competencies. Today, the ROP offers a broad, robust program of study that involves sequences of courses and the integration of academic knowledge with technical skills.

In collaboration with our educational partners, Huntington Beach Union, Irvine, Newport-Mesa, Saddleback Valley, and Tustin Unified School Districts, Coastline ROP offers classes that are designed to increase student achievement and keep kids connected to school. These classes provide students a rich, blended curriculum that has been aligned to state standards and evaluated by members of industry. Some of these classes meet the UC/CSU visual and performing arts or elective requirements. Many classes include internships at local business and industry sites where ROP students continue to improve their problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills, and work attitudes. All ROP classes are designed to strengthen and broaden the student's secondary experience.

Together with our districts, Coastline ROP has the capacity and infrastructure to provide students with the adaptable and transferable skills necessary to effectively transition to college and careers—skills that will help them prepare for emerging opportunities and a technically sophisticated workplace.

## Capistrano-Laguna Beach ROP

31522 El Camino Real, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675  
949/496-3118 www.capolagrop.org

### Charting a Course for Future Success



**Kimberly Thomason**  
Superintendent

Studies show students who take a career technical education course in high school are more successful and more focused about their post-secondary education and career, as well as find relevancy within their academic subjects. The stories of how an ROP course has influenced the lives of many students continue to make themselves known, even decades later.

Interestingly, there are many teachers within the Capistrano-Laguna Beach Regional Occupational Program who are dedicated professionals within their career field, who also got their start by taking an ROP course in high school. Our Emergency Medical Technician teacher, now a Battalion Chief with Orange County Fire Authority, started his career as a San Clemente High School student in the ROP Emergency Medical Technician program. After 20 years of teaching, he has helped over one thousand students study and explore the same career path. Other professionals in automotive technology, production art, fire technology, sports medicine and criminal justice have returned to our classrooms, this time as ROP teachers, who started as a high school student in an ROP course.

As Claire Fagin, distinguished educational leader in the health science field said, "Knowledge will bring the opportunity to make a difference." We appreciate and value our teachers and the difference they make in the lives of our students. Our teachers are highly qualified experts in their field who have decided to give back by passing along their knowledge and finding success in others succeeding. That success is no more evident than engaging the student, who becomes so passionate, they become the teacher.

### North Orange County ROP

385 North Muller Street, Anaheim, CA 92801  
714/502-5858 www.nocrop.us

### Accomplishment Breeds Success



**Dr. Michael Worley**  
Superintendent

I remember what it was like to learn welding in an ROP class at Anaheim High School. I loved it because I was good at it. The feeling of accomplishment was immense as I took raw steel and created useful objects that would last a lifetime. It made me feel skillful and smart to be able use my newly acquired skills. It gave me the confidence to join the Navy and become diver-trained in underwater welding.

That's what ROP classes do for high school students. When students master career technical skills while they are in high school, they naturally feel confident, able to try things, to venture into the world.

Some North Orange County ROP student accomplishments this year include winning first place in Sharp's state contest for Modern Dance; second in the national auto technician contest; first and third at Youth Expo in robotics; and placing in several photography and art contests, and winning first, second and third in the multimedia division in a Fullerton Art contest.

High school and adult nursing students won gold, silver and bronze in state and national contests. Auto Tech students took first and second and fourth places at the Specialty Equipment Manufacturers' Association small block engine teardown contest. We are still number 1 in the USA!

Read more about ROP student accomplishments at <http://www.nocrop.us/news/default.html>

Thanks to all the dedicated ROP teachers who engage students in ways that help them know they can and will be valuable members of the community.



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