

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District



Volume 12, Issue 34

November 2019–January 2020



Rose Drive Elementary School's staff, pictured above, recently worked to revamp their entire PBIS systems of support.
(Please see page 3)

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SUPERINTENDENT

PYLUSD is Dedicated to Providing an Array of CTE Opportunities



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) remains committed to offering an extensive list of Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities to benefit students' success now and in the future.

The District's secondary CTE programs, known as CareerLink Academies and Pathways, allow PYLUSD high school students to see the real-world relevance and applicability of their curriculum, gain new industry-specific skills, liaise with professionals in their area of interest, engage in internships and job training in their fields, and earn credits and certifications that facilitate their transition into the workforce or collegiate programs of study.

In total, the District boasts 6 CTE Academies and 28 CTE Pathways for the 2019-2020 school year. CareerLink Academies include Digital Media Arts (DMAA) and ED Law at El Dorado High School, Aztec Engineering and Manufacturing (AEMA) and Medical Sciences (MSA) at Esperanza High School, Val Tech at Valencia High School, and Mustang Business (MBA) at Yorba Linda High School.

Across the District, CareerLink Pathways provide courses focused on an array of industry sectors such as education, food service and hospitality, construction, and more.

For example, it is the mission of Esperanza's Aztec Engineering and Manufacturing Academy to teach students about applicable careers through industry software and technology, certification, field trips, internships, and job shadowing. Academy instructor, Jeff Wallace, equips students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training to succeed in future careers. Whether students choose to pursue engineering, manufacturing courses, or both, they are trained in safety and introduced to basic concepts and skills before working on real-life projects around Esperanza's campus and the community. Students in this Academy live their motto "from concept to product," which is undeniable as you walk Esperanza High School's campus and see custom Aztec Engineering and Manufacturing creations all over!

The Aztec Engineering and Manufacturing Academy is just one example of how PYLUSD prepares students for high-demand and high-wage careers of the future through a multitude of Career Technical Education opportunities.

Three PYLUSD Schools Recognized by California PBIS Coalition

From the District

Three Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) campuses have been distinguished by the California PBIS Coalition for excellence in implementing a robust Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Rose Drive Elementary School has earned the gold implementation award, while Mabel Paine Elementary School and Esperanza High School have both earned silver.

The California PBIS Coalition oversees a statewide effort to implement a recognition system to acknowledge schools for implementing PBIS with fidelity to the national framework. According to their respective levels of implementation, schools are given the opportunity to apply to be recognized as bronze, silver, gold, or platinum. Impressively, for the 2018-2019 school year, only 755 schools were designated as silver and only 305 received gold throughout the state.

According to the California Department of Education, PBIS is an approach that focuses on the emotional and behavioral learning of students, which leads to an increase in engagement and a decrease in problematic behavior over time. It assists schools in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions that improve social and emotional behavior outcomes for all students.

Rose Drive Elementary School takes special care in creating a positive, caring, and collaborative environment for all students through their PBIS program. They embrace "The Roadrunner Way" and the core values of safety, there and

ready, acting responsibly, respect, and showing compassion – otherwise known as STARS. Rose Drive students of all ages who practice these core values earn STARS tickets to exchange for various rewards, experiences, and more.

As a part of Mabel Paine Elementary School's PBIS program, students are expected to be "Mindful Mustangs" by doing the right thing, in the right place, at the right time. By exhibiting the positive behaviors outlined in the school's PBIS matrix, students earn Mustang Money to spend on incentives both in the classroom and around campus. The school's principal also presents a Behavior Expectations Assembly for each grade level at the beginning of the school year.

Esperanza High School's PBIS program is centered around the concept of "Aztec PRIDE," which encourages students to be positive, responsible, innovative, determined, and engaged citizens. Students are reminded of this notion through branded cardinal and gold Aztec PRIDE signage on the school's buildings and in every classroom, as well as on posters that define expected behaviors in all locations on campus. Through the school's 5-Star Student electronic system, students earn cards for getting involved at school and demonstrating Aztec PRIDE behavior. PRIDE cards, which may be traded for prizes or tickets to school events, are awarded across campus on a daily basis.

The District's distinguished schools will be recognized as a part of the 4th Annual California PBIS Conference in Sacramento.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Superintendent Dr. Gregory S. Plutko begins this issue with information about preparing students for high-demand and high-wage careers. The world is changing at a rapid rate and education is continually evolving to prepare students.

In this issue you will read articles about Motivational Mondays, Volunteers, Unified Physical Education, Different Paths to Learning, National Walk to School Day, and so much more.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is February 12, 2020.



R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

21520 Yorba Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706
www.reach4pylusc.org



First Beginning Guitar Class

Valadez Middle School has 20 new Yamaha guitars, beginning guitar music books and a mobile guitar storage rack for their first beginning guitar class.

Only one month in, Mr. Michael Fenton is proud of the students progress reading music and practicing basic notes and chords.

Mr. Phil Mortenson, PYLUSD Performing Arts Coordinator, brought a request to the REACH Foundation's attention that this beginning guitar class was just what VMS needed to engage a new group of students with music.

A REACH Foundation Grant provided the instruments and we look forward to attending the VMS Music Showcase in Spring 2020 where the students will perform.



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Covering the
**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • www.byms.org



Beth Fisher
Principal

#BeYorba and the Insta-worthy Experience

As the new Principal of Bernardo Yorba Middle School, I want to thank our parents and community for investing in our students. Collectively we are creating the #BeYorba philosophy: to encourage students to BE their best selves. We have been hard at work with the PTA to launch our campaign to build the first middle school esports team in PYLUSD. We have started a custom ice cream and donut contest to inspire school culture with local ice cream and donut shops (for more information, go to byms.org) Through these efforts, we want to create insta-worthy school experiences where students capture it, share it, and be a part of crafting their own #BeYorba narrative.



Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • www.brookhavenelementary.com



Julie Lucas
Principal

Volunteers Abound at Brookhaven

On any given day at Brookhaven you are sure to see a plethora of parent and grandparent volunteers! We are very fortunate to have such an engaged and supportive community who give not only of their financial resources to help support our school, but also their time both in and out of the classroom.

When Principal Julie Lucas visits our classrooms she often observes parents and/or grandparents sitting in small groups reading with students, working on math skills, helping young writers get their ideas just right, or playing fun games to reinforce the skills that our teachers have taught in the classroom. Our parents and grandparents show up weekly, as scheduled, to participate in their children's classrooms with a smile on their face and obvious love in their hearts for our Bears!

Over the years, Brookhaven's veteran staff members have built lasting relationships and a warm, inviting culture that allows for consistent family support year after year. One of the many things that were shared with Mrs. Lucas in a passing conversation with our volunteers is just how connected they are to the school, not only through their children or grandchildren, but often through being former students themselves.



It is because of the dedication of our volunteers and families that the community culture of Brookhaven is so strong and long-lasting. We sincerely thank all of our volunteers for the grand generosity of their time and love! It's always great to be a Bear!

Bryant Ranch *Elementary* (K-5)

24695 Paseo de Toronto, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7120 • www.bryantranchschool.com



Shannon Robles
Principal

Motivational Mondays

Every Monday is Motivational Monday at Bryant Ranch School. We begin our week with a motivational message read by Mrs. Robles over the loudspeaker. These messages are thought-provoking and include quotes from individuals who have contributed to society in positive ways.

The ultimate goals of Motivational Mondays are to build character by encouraging students to take responsibility for their choices, to empower students to achieve their personal best, and to build a strong sense of community within our school. Classes are engaging in rich discussions about character development, and we really focus on what it means to be kind and to do the right thing, even when no one is looking. Students and staff have taken it a step further and began wearing shirts with inspirational sayings on Mondays.



We are so excited that our students, staff, and community have embraced our new tradition, and we all work together to make sure Bryant Ranch is a caring place to be. Go, Explorers!

El Camino Real *High School* (9-12)

1351 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7060 • www.ecrhs.pylusd.org



Carey J. Aiello
Principal

Unlocking Potential, Revealing Hope

El Camino is fortunate to be partnering with a local service organization to empower young women to rise above barriers on their paths to success.

Each Tuesday, the students in Ms. Bonner's women's studies course meet with volunteers. The organization's special curriculum then guides these students through overcoming obstacles, setting and achieving goals, identifying core values, and exploring careers.

Ms. Bonner hopes that her students will "appreciate how alike we are despite backgrounds and ages; learn new strategies to find their passion and thrive; and love themselves as beautiful women who have the strength to persevere."

These sessions include the time for self-reflection, as well as guest speakers. After hearing the story of a local female business owner who had addressed the class, one student shared, "I was not so sure I would connect with these women, but I do. Her story gave me hope." When students are hopeful, their potential for success is exponentially greater.



Soroptimist, Kathy Campinelli, and Language Arts teacher, Christine Bonner, smile with pride after the team's first session with El Camino Real's resilient young women.

El Dorado High School (9-12)

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7580 • www.edhs.org



Joey Davis
Principal

Video Game Design

Welcome to another exciting new school year! The first quarter is over, and we have 2,020 students enrolled. New students and staff have settled in and hopefully are feeling comfortable in the nest.

Our new video game design pathway is very exciting. Instructor Gil Marquez has an impressive résumé, which includes professional work in video games, television, and theme-park rides.



He has even won an Emmy award for his art work! For the last 14 years, he has been teaching at the college and university levels.

Mr. Marquez's background and experience, as well as a state-of-the-art lab, are certainly assets as we build this exciting new program. Doing the art work for video games is a growing field that captures our students' interest and has great career potential.

Esperanza High School (9-12)

1830 N. Kellogg Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7540 • www.esperanzahs.com



Gina Aguilar
Principal

Unified Physical Education

Esperanza High School prides itself on our core value of inclusion. Several years ago, under the leadership of Athletic Director Keri Walters and special education teacher Roger Galvan, a student-led club called "Unified Sports" was brought to Esperanza. The club combines students with disabilities and general education students in a non-competitive learning environment that encourages friendship and interaction.

Due to its extreme popularity, we expanded the club and added two courses of Unified Physical Education. Students work together in class to increase their competence and confidence in a variety of physical activities. They also compete against other Unified Sports programs in Orange County in a variety of sports activities.

The events have typically included a crowd full of fellow Aztecs excited to be supporting our great athletes in these competitions. Through ongoing leadership opportunities, members of this course are empowered to help create a more inclusive and accepting school environment for all of our students here at Esperanza.





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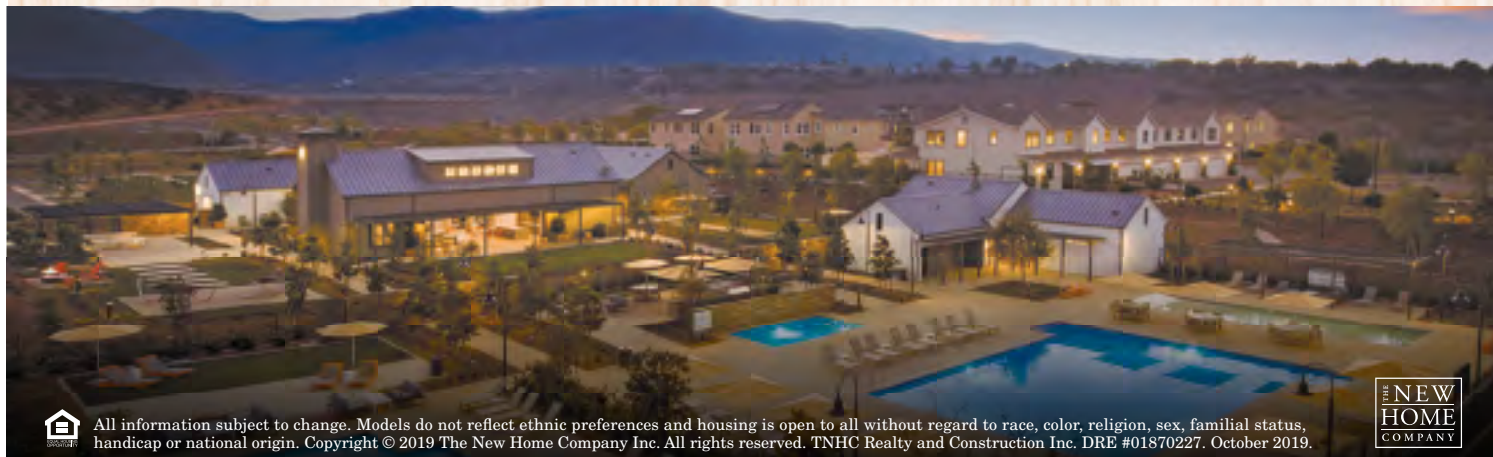


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Fairmont *Elementary* (K-6)

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • www.fairmontelementary.com



Cynthia Rex
Principal

Falcon Fun Zone

Thanks to creative and dedicated volunteers, our fabulous Fun Zone is better than ever this year! Students who are recognized for Being Prepared, Respectful, Inclusive, Diligent, and Engaged (PRIDE) can spend their PRIDE cards on unique activities organized by parent Dorie Heath and our PTA volunteers.

One of the most popular activities is the air-hockey table, which is found next to the art center. Games of all kinds beckon students to come in and enjoy a change of pace from the playground. The treasure chest also tempts children of all ages with donations from community sponsors, and 35 pride cards will buy an off-campus walk with the principal to get a shave ice or a frozen treat.



Students gather around the art table during recess to share in the joy of creating.

George Key School (K-12)

710 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7170 • www.georgekey.org



Kelli McFedries
Principal

Great Beginnings!

Welcome back, George Key Bobcats! I am honored to join the George Key staff as the new principal, and I am excited for the opportunity to lead a school with such a rich tradition of excellence.

George Key is fortunate to have a highly skilled, well-trained and caring staff who are dedicated to providing our students with a rigorous, engaging and high-quality educational experience. This year, we will continue to focus on supporting each student to reach their individual potential through comprehensive curriculum with a heavy focus on communication, independence and life skills, provided in a safe, nurturing and collaborative environment.

We are thrilled to welcome our newest staff members, Verna Pham and Kim Bidelsbach. Ms. Pham and Ms. Bidelsbach are joining George Key as teachers and are both wonderful additions to our team.

We are looking forward to a great 2019–20 school year at George Key. Roar on, Bobcats!



Our two new staff members: Kim Bidelsbach and Verna Pham.

Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • www.glenknoll.org



**David
Cammarato**
Principal

Recipe for Success

Glenknoll Elementary School has the perfect recipe for success in its outstanding teaching staff, hard-working students, and supportive parents. They are all outstanding examples for our community.

Glenknoll's teaching staff is committed to high academic standards with a focus on student success. In addition, they value the relationships that are built with their students, which help them to

build connections and support students when they need assistance. Thank you to all of our teachers for your hard work and commitment to our students!

Glenknoll's students take pride in their school and their learning. They have proven themselves to be responsible and well-behaved, and they arrive each morning ready to learn. Their pride stands out, as many students enjoy getting involved with school leadership and activities

throughout the year. Our Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) students have already kicked off their service by assisting younger students during recess. They help to facilitate positive play and encourage positive, problem-solving behavior. These students also help to promote the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for our younger students.

Our fabulous PTA has helped to kick off our year by gifting another set of netbooks and a charging cart to our school. We continue to work toward having one-to-one netbooks available for our students, and this gift puts us one step closer to that reality. Currently, second through sixth grades have that ratio, and our kindergarten and first-grade students have a two-to-one student to netbook ratio. Thank you, PTA, and all of our parents! Your tireless support continues to help us reach our goals!

Thank you to our teachers, students and parents for helping us to kick off another great school year. Collectively, there is pride at Glenknoll!

Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

1775 Glenview Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7150 • www.glenviewbulldogs.org



Alondra Ramos
Principal

How We Shine!

By Ken Valburg, Interim Principal

Glenview Elementary School embraces and celebrates a positive school culture. There are many positive school experiences that engage, inspire and motivate students to excel and feel connected at Glenview.

A new banner was placed on the playground to brighten the area and celebrate the school's PAWS behavioral expectations. Bulldog Bucks are used to acknowledge positive behavior, and many students will save their Bucks for the Principal's Parties throughout the school year.

Fourth -through-sixth-grade students recently participated in Student Council elections, and Student Council members will operate the Dog Pound store where students can exchange Bulldog Bucks for positive and motivating merchandise. Each month, two students from each class are recognized as Glenview Greats, and these students receive certificates, Front-Of-Line Passes and their names posted on a bulletin board in one of the hallways. Class Compliments are a way to celebrate the corporate behavior of all the students in a class as they walk in hallways, attend assemblies, and visit the library and computer lab.

Glenview students have many ways to shine!



Golden *Elementary* (K-6)

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • www.golden.pylusd.org



**Dr. Alison
DeMark**
Principal

Family Picnic!

Golden Elementary had a fabulous opening this year. We welcomed over 850 students to campus in late August. The month of September was spent establishing routines and getting down to business.

As we reflect upon the wonderful year 2018–19 and the National Blue Ribbon achievement Golden received last fall, we look to the future to ensure that we continue to expect excellence at our school. Our focus continues to be on academics, social-emotional well-being and our family partnerships! One way we work to build relationships with our families is the Lunch with a Loved One family days. Our second event of family celebration was held in September. We welcomed families to campus to eat lunch with their children on our field. Families were encouraged to bring blankets and chairs. We found out that we have some serious picnicking families here at Golden! What an awesome event!



Kraemer *Middle School* (7-8)

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • www.kraemerms.org



Michael Young
Principal

Klub Rush

On September 26th, we hosted our annual Klub Rush event at lunch. Music, decorated tables, flyers, and balloons created a festive environment for students to explore the extensive range of available clubs. Existing leaders and advisors manned the booths eagerly signing up new members, answering questions and promoting their groups. Our 15 clubs include Guitar Club, Hip-Hop Club, Cyber Patriot, K2K charity, After School Sports, Speech & Debate, etc. By advising such a wide range of student organized clubs, our staff demonstrates their ongoing commitment to actualizing Kraemer's mission: "Putting students first with a focus on innovation and inclusion."



La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

4999 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 • www.laentradahighschool.org



Carrie Bisgard
Principal

Different Paths to Learning

La Entrada High School has two pathways for students. The Independent Pathway has always been an excellent option for students looking for a more flexible way to complete high school. Students in the Independent Pathway focus on one course at a time and finish each course in four weeks. Independent Pathway students meet weekly with credentialed teachers who provide support, monitoring, and assessment.

Designed for students who seek an alternative to traditional classroom instruction, but who need more support than the Independent Pathway, the Hybrid Pathway offers the benefit of daily one-on-one structure and guidance from La Entrada's professional staff, while also allowing students the flexibility of personalized learning. Students in this pathway complete independently

paced online courses. They attend school for two hours a day and also work an additional two hours from home. Both college prep and credit recovery courses are available.

The focus in this pathway is on daily support and student wellness. It serves those students who would like a more flexible way to attend school or a different way to learn, but who are also committed to quality education.

Students in either pathway frequently take advantage of the flexibility of their schedules to take college courses while still in high school. Fullerton College courses are offered on campus each semester, but the flexibility of the LEHS model also allows students to take courses during the day on any local community college campus. This gives them the opportunity to complete their freshman year in college before high school graduation.

For more information about La Entrada, interested students should contact their high school counselor, or call La Entrada High School at 714-986-7026.

Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.lakeview.pylusd.org



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Taking on the Challenge

We've got spirit. Yes, we do! We've got spirit. How 'bout you?"

Lakeview Elementary's PTA kicked off the new school year and its annual Jog-a-thon with a pep rally complete with a cheer squad, pom poms, hoverboard riding mascot, and silly string. To say that our Lakeview Lions were ready to run through the tunnel and burst onto the field for the new school year is an understatement!

With over a full month of learning under their belt, initial assessments taken, and our R.O.A.R. (Respectful, Organized, Accountable, Responsible) behavior standards set, our students are ready and equipped to take on the challenge of learning this year's grade-level standards.

This year we will once again be combining our Jog-a-thon with the culmination of Red Ribbon Week. Our students will also be learning about saying "No to Drugs and Bullies" with a special P.E. class provided by a local merchant.

This will surely be our best year yet!



Linda Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • www.lindavistaelementary.org



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

PAWSitively Supportive!

Our school motto this year is “At Linda Vista, we are PAWSitively here for each other.” PAWS represents our core values of Practice kindness, Always do our best, Work together, and Show respect. It is our goal to foster a learning environment that is safe, inclusive, supportive, inviting and nurturing.

I continue to be very proud of the way our students and staff come together to live out

this mission. One example of this is our Lead Lion Peer Mentors, who volunteer their time to serve as positive role models as they mentor our primary students during recess and lunch. Our Lead Lions completed an application and were carefully selected to serve in this role based on their leadership potential and eagerness to give back to the school. What they don't yet realize is how much they will get back from serving in this capacity. Mahatma Gandhi articulates this perfectly with his quote: “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”



Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • www.mabelpaine.org



Melanie Carmona
Principal

Learning to be Helpful

Thanks to the generous donations from our Mabel Paine Elementary families last year, we now have our own school set of building bricks for STEM activities. The second-grade team has already utilized these donations by becoming “Big Buddies” on campus to the lower grades.

Mrs. Howard's and Mrs. Lyman's second-graders meet every week with their “Little Buddies” where they practice together about how to build small buildings, structures, and roads. By the end of the year, the Big Buddies and the Little Buddies hope to build a whole community that they can showcase to the school and their families.

Some of these second-graders were Little Buddies when they first started at Mabel Paine. Now they get to pay it forward by mentoring our younger students. Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Lyman have prepared their second-graders to be helpful and responsible in assisting the younger students, and to be a model of what it means to be a Mindful Mustang.



Melrose Elementary (K-5)

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • <https://melrose.pylusd.org>



Nicole Hernandez
Principal

National Walk to School Day

The students and staff of Melrose Elementary School took place in the National Walk to School Day in October.

With two meet up locations, students and their parents met staff members and enjoyed a brisk walk to school as part of our school's wellness plan.

Melrose was recently recognized as one of America's Healthiest Schools. We are very proud of this recognition. We are committed to providing a well-balanced program that includes academics, social emotional support and opportunities for health and fitness. What a great way to start the day!



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Morse Elementary (K-6)

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • www.morseschool.net



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

Roller Coasters

Morse Elementary School hosted its first Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Night of the school year.

It was an amazing evening, with over 65 families in attendance. The theme was roller

coasters, showing our students that in life there are ups and downs and highs and lows, but we all have the ability to persevere through it all with a growth mindset.

The night began with AVID sixth-grade greeters welcoming families at the door. Then, the Preppy K and kindergarten students sang and danced to a roller-coaster song. Then upper-grade students performed a skit while teachers read the book *Roller Coaster* by Marlene Frazee.

The evening concluded with families working cooperatively to construct the longest and/or tallest roller coasters, which were tested using ping-pong balls. It was a wonderful evening with our Morse families and staff!



Parkview Home Schooling (K-12)

2189 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050 • www.parkviewpylud.org



James Hardin
Principal

Parkview Rocketry Team Thrives

The Department of Defense is sponsoring Parkview School Rocketry Team members Emily Rodeghiero, Regina Rodeghiero, Andrew Salladin, and Timothy Louie to compete in the 2019-2020 American Rocketry Challenge. Over 800 teams from across the country will compete in this Rocketry Challenge, and with rigorous criteria set for the teams to design, build, and launch their rockets.

The teams work on their rockets from September through March, with their final launch in April. The top 100 teams will get invited to Washington, D.C. to compete together and determine which one will end up representing the United States internationally.



Our Parkview Team has an excellent chance to make it to these finals in Washington, especially with the support of STARBASE at the Department of Defense. STARBASE provides our Parkview team with training from mentors as well as the materials they need to build their rockets. It also allows us to launch our rockets at their Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.

Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • www.riovistaschool.org



Jose Cabrera
Principal

Parent Engagement and Leadership

The 2019–20 school year began with an emphasis on the importance of student and family wellness and engagement. We are proud to announce the Bronze Level Award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. We joined more than 300 schools representing 23 states honored for prioritizing healthier eating, physical

activity, staff well-being and much more.

For Rio Vista, we are taking this emphasis by incorporating our parents as playground leaders. Our parent leaders participated in a six-week course that focused on the importance of parent engagement, wellness policies, physical activity, student advocacy and playground management. Soon, this group of parents will lead games and activities three times a week on our playground. It is our goal to increase our parent engagement with monthly

meetings for parents to deepen their understanding of developing healthy habits and empower parents to be active leaders in our community.

For more information, please visit our website to see our parents in action.



Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • www.rosedrive.pylusd.org



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi
Principal

Superheroes in Training

Our theme at Rose Drive this year is “What’s Your Superpower? Superheroes in Training.” Our theme will allow us to continue our mission of teaching 21st century learning skills, laying the foundation for future success and fostering the development of self-esteem and responsibility for all students.

During the first week of school, students excitedly learned about our superhero theme with superhero balloon pillars, a superhero-themed MPR, and our student presentation on learning about everyday heroes who make a difference. Students were challenged to think about their own character traits and what different talents they have in order to enhance their superpowers.

This year, our theme has also influenced our schoolwide PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) to include a schoolwide assembly from Omegaman and Friends to reinforce the concept of being a HERO—helping everyone respect others. We will also be adding after-school enrichment classes that include cooking, art, science, STEM, makerspace, Young Scholars and chess.

There is something for everyone at Rose Drive, and we have the privilege of teaching the most amazing superheroes here!



Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • www.rubydrive.org



Diana McKibben
Principal

To Healthy Eating

Ruby Drive Elementary has had a healthy start to the new school year! Ruby Drive started the year with being

named to the 2019 list of America's Healthiest Schools at the Bronze level. The staff is integrating the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) with healthy rewards.

One of the rewards for excellent behavior at the lunch tables is a Front of the Line pass that can be used to be first in line for a healthy lunch. In several classes, students save up Ruby Pride cards to "buy" the reward of eating lunch with a teacher and a friend. This has become a popular option, complete with music and dancing!



What a way to encourage healthy lifestyles and reward good choices! Also, many students are now bringing health snacks to eat at recess.

Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • www.sierravistapta.com



Jacque Bluemel
Principal

Outdoor Science Camp

For a number of reasons the students at Sierra Vista Elementary School all look forward to being sixth-graders. Switching classes and being the top grade SOARing Eagle role models for younger students are certainly high on the list. But the No. 1 reason is the opportunity to attend sixth-grade Outdoor Education Camp in the local mountains!

Sixth-grade camp is a week-long experience that many students don't want to end, and will certainly never forget. Those who attend camp can experience science education through a variety of nature hikes, hands-on experiments, night-time astronomy lessons, and, sometimes, lots of snow!

The Sierra Vista PTA believes this is an opportunity that our students should not miss, and so they work very hard

with fund raising to make sure that all of the sixth-graders can share in this week-long adventure in learning. PTA members have sold Back-to-School Grams to parents at Back to School Night, which the students can redeem for a free ice cream on Fridays after school.

They have also collected household and clothing donations from the school and surrounding community to take to our Savers FUNDrive, worked a concession stand at our first Family Movie Night, and distributed lunches at our very first Camp Cafe during lunch. Their hard work and dedication has raised over \$1,000 so far, which will go towards paying for or reducing the camp fees for our Sierra Vista sixth-graders.

We believe that it takes a village to support our students, and our Sierra Vista PTA has certainly stepped up to help with that endeavor. We appreciate everything that our PTA does to support the entire student population of Sierra Vista!

Topaz Elementary (K-6)

3232 Topaz Ln., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/993-9977 • www.topazschool.org



Christa Borgese
Principal

Kindness Counts

Topaz Elementary has been working hard these past few years on their system of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS).

Students earn ROARs cards when they are caught being Respectful, Organized, Achieving, Responsible, and

Safe. They can then turn these cards in to their teachers for various classroom incentives, or save them to turn in to the school for a variety of incentives, including a trip to the treasure chest, a monthly party invite, or the much loved “Principal for the Day”!

Topaz is also excited to announce the introduction of Kindness Mondays. Here students celebrate the acts of kindness they experience each week by sharing their stories on our “Kindness Cards.” These are then read each Monday over the loudspeaker. With these PBIS supports in place, our Tigers are ready to have a great year!



Travis Ranch School (K-8)

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • www.travisranchschool.org



Susan Metcalf
Principal

Unified Sports

Travis Ranch Middle School's newest course addition is Special Olympics Unified Sports. This elective program is a physical education class in which general education students participate with students and teachers from our Moderate/Severe Special Education classes.

A total of 48 students have been divided into participation groups and given titles such as “athlete” and “partner.” Our partners are responsible for assisting and communicating with their athletes through games, exercises, off-campus ventures, and individual sport activities.

The motto of Special Olympics Unified Sports is “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.” Our students exemplify this motto through collaboration, as everyone knows that success in sports hinges on the ability to work together.

This new course is just one example of how students at Travis Ranch enjoy full-inclusion opportunities as we unify our entire student body.



Tuffree *Middle School* (7-8)

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • www.tuffree.org



Cindy Freeman
Principal

AVID Program Thriving

Tuffree's AVID program is in its fifth year, and is stronger than ever!

AVID is a program in many PYLUSD schools. It is designed to coach and support students in a pathway that leads to college. Students in AVID elective classes (who may be the first in their family to attend college) learn study skills and also how to think, read, and write critically for advanced

honors classes. College tutors also come in two to three times a week to support the students in their core subjects, especially math.

Tuffree started out small, with only a couple of trained staff members. Now all of our Tuffree teachers are trained in AVID strategies. These strategies are used school-wide in most classrooms. Additionally, there is also a college wall in every classroom, and our students are rewarded every Thursday for wearing their college gear.

Our AVID students also take field trips to area universities. These trips will be offered to more students during the coming year. Finally, 90 percent of Tuffree's eighth-grade AVID students are accepted annually into the high school AVID programs.



Tynes *Elementary* (K-6)

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • www.johnotynes.org



Dr. Debra E. Silverman
Principal

Volunteer Valets

At John O. Tynes, we provide opportunities for students to be contributing citizens to our community. One way that our fourth-through-sixth-grade Tigers can volunteer is through the Student Valet Program.

Interested students must submit an application and attend a training session prior to their shift. This ensures that students are trained in safety and will role-play scenarios that they may encounter. They are then organized into groups that alternate throughout the year and serve our school.

Our valets arrive at school by 8 a.m. on their assigned week of duty to don their bright-orange vests and name tags. The students wave cars forward with a smile and assist arriving students as they exit the vehicles. If any student or family needs help with items, the valets are there to lend a helping hand.

The valets help morning traffic move efficiently and add a welcoming smile. We are very proud of our Tynes Tiger Valets and how they make a positive impact in our community. Go Tigers!



Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • www.valadezacademy.org



Refugio Gracian
Principal

Folklorico Team

On Wednesday, September 25th 2019, the Valadez Middle School Academy Folklorico

team was cordially invited to perform for Placentia Mayor Rhonda

Shader during the “Mayor Breakfast” event.

Lead by our amazing Coach Alexandra Cabrera, our Valadez Folklorico performing native Mexican dance and music, which emphasizes Mexican folk culture with ballet style characteristics in a highly refined choreographed performance.

The Valadez Folklorico team dedicates their afternoons practicing and has been proudly featured in district, city and community events.



Valencia *High School (9-12)*

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • www.vhstigers.org



Olivia Young
Principal

National Merit Scholarship Program

Valencia High School is proud to announce that nine seniors are among the top 1/2% students in the nation to receive the honor of 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist: Adila Ahmed, Rachel Bang,

Andrea Chen, Hailey Choe, Justin Khou, Frank Kim, Nathan Kim, Stephen Min,

and Janani Prabakaran. Twenty four additional students listed below scored in the top 5% in the nation and earned qualify scores for the 2020 National Merit Commended Student Program: Emily Beck, Catherine Campbell, Hunter Cheng, Keren Choi, Callista Gill, Daanesh Jamal, Jiwon Jeong, Himanshu Kaushik, Kalena Kwan, Brandon Kwon, Joyce Kwon, David Lee, Samuel Lee, Alycia Liem, Samuel Littrell, Aditya Mody, Pooja Patel, Mae Riley, Sophia Slankard, Nigam Vadecha, Ryan Wong, Anthony

Woo, Jeonghoon Yoo, and Kathleen Yun. In addition, three seniors earned qualifying scores for the National Hispanic Recognition Program: Jay Louie, Lex Marques, and Chris Romanes. Lastly, four scholars also earned perfect SAT or ACT scores: Hailey Choe, Morgan Gee, Frank Kim, and Sophia Slankard.



Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • www.vanburenelementary.org



Connie Roe
Principal

Braver, Stronger, Smarter

Van Buren Roadrunners are targeting their full potential this year! Our schoolwide theme is “You Are Braver Than You Believe, Stronger Than You Seem, And Smarter Than You Think.” We are grateful to the wonderful children’s author A.A. Milne and his adorable Pooh bear for these impactful words that our students see and repeat every day.

We also have different monthly themes reminding our students to work hard and be confident as they learn from their mistakes and build new skills. Teachers support students in this effort as they present monthly themes and lessons from *The Growth Mindset Coach* to build understanding of growth mindset and the abiding belief that challenges can be faced with strength and determination. Students are learning that they can rise up from failures stronger and wiser than before. Van Buren Roadrunners are well on their way to a successful year of learning and growth!



1st grade teacher, Jaqui Laporte and her students showing October’s Growth Mindset Coach theme.

Venture Academy *Adult Transition (18-22)*

701 East Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7178 • <https://ventureacademy.pylusd.org>



Kelli McFedries
*Coordinator,
Special Education*

New Opportunities

Venture Academy prides itself on ensuring that every student maximizes his or her potential to live, work, and participate in the community. We focus on facilitating independence in the areas of employment, education, and independent living, as well as preparing students to

make informed decisions regarding present and future plans.

Our goal is to build the strongest educational foundation for each student, so this year we are focusing on constructing systems and programs that provide excellent instructional support. This year, we updated the schedule with four recreation-leisure elective options for students.

These elective options give students a chance to explore their interests so they can discover what they are passionate about, as well as giving them the resources they need to access these activities in their community.

Venture Academy is proud to be investing in our students now so they will excel in the future! Go, Wildcats!



Students in the cooking for independent living elective.

Wagner Elementary (K-6)

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • www.wagnerwildcats.org



Janice Weber
Principal

Growing Hearts and Minds

Over the past two years, Wagner Elementary School has embraced and actualized the themes of learning and belonging. Building upon these important aspects of school culture, this year's theme is "Growing Our Hearts and Our Minds." This phrase

embodies the mission statement of Wagner Elementary. It is important for students to be able to articulate why they come to school, and this theme is easy for them to remember!

Our staff helps students to grow their minds through effective academic instruction that encourages critical thinking. They set expectations that our students will speak and write like scholars. Our staff also helps students to grow their hearts by teaching social skills, promoting positive behaviors, and

engaging in restorative practices, all of which are beneficial in school and in life.

When students at Wagner Elementary are asked, "Why do you come to school," any Wildcat will answer, "To grow our hearts and our minds."



Woodsboro Elementary (K-6)

7575 E. Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • www.woodsboro.pylusd.org



Dr. George Lopez
Principal

Full-Day Kindergarten!

Woodsboro Elementary is excited to be one of five schools in the PYLUSD to pilot full-day kindergarten. The additional time provides great opportunity to build on social skills, art and physical education. It also allows our kindergartens

time to build routine and get prepared for first grade.

Teacher Tami La Magna said she likes having the extra time to teach curriculum, establish routines, and get to know the students better.

"I'm pleased that the children are adjusting to full-day so quickly," Ms. La Magna said. She added that their favorite things to do are buy lunch just like the big students and go to PE.

"I love all-day kinder," student Hazel Viele said. "We get to do so much, and I like learning a lot more since we are here all day."

Logan Esquer agreed. "I love being here all day because I get to do lots of work and learn a lot," he said.



Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • www.ylms.org



Greg Kemp
Principal

Bobcats REPresent

Yorba Linda Middle School (YLMS) kicked off the 2019–2020 school year by hosting their inaugural Week of Welcome (WOW), in an effort to introduce school-wide expectations, establish school culture, and create a positive learning environment for all students.

“When we set our expectations and establish our school culture early in the year, students take pride in their school and are excited about returning,” shared Principal Greg Kemp.

Time was set aside throughout the week for students to participate in multiple lessons focused on setting goals, creating a growth mindset, understanding the difference between bullying and mean or rude behavior, and much more. In addition, on the first day, all Bobcats were treated to a pancake breakfast prepared by teachers, administrators, and PTSA volunteers.

On the second day of school, the entire student body participated in a peaceful yoga session before enjoying an assembly with a well-known motivational speaker who encourages students to care for each other, make good choices, and become positive leaders in their school and community.



Students learned about the school's new Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) matrix, Bobcats REPresent, which stands for Resiliency, Empathy, and Potential. In addition, information about the school's new electronic reward system, 5-Star Students, was also shared. This system allows students to earn rewards by demonstrating positive behavior around campus and participating in school activities.

Have a great school year, YLMS!

Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

19900 Bastanchury, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • www.ylhs.org



Dave Flynn
Principal

Another Great Year!

Welcome, Mustangs, to the 2019–20 school year! As we start our new school year, we reflect on our 2018–19 student academic performance and introduce new programs for the upcoming year. Last years' Advanced Placement scores recorded a 92% pass rate on over 1,000 exams for college-level recognition. SAT results were 70 and 100 points higher than the state average in critical reading/writing and math. The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) recorded the highest scores for YLHS Mustangs and were the top scores in the district. Our graduating Class of 2019 earned \$4.3 million in scholarship and grants while giving back to our community 47,000 hours in service projects.

Continuing our goal of student connectedness and recognition, Mr. Okamoto and his team introduced The Mustang Way to staff and students. The program will involve students and staff in promoting Respect—Responsibility—Integrity as part of our focus on student academics, co-curricular programs and wellness. Students will receive Mustang Way cards, and parents may get a Mustang Way postcard for their children's support of our new Positive Behavior Program.

As with every year, the district and site staff are very intentional and focused on providing strong academic and co-curricular programs along with a renewed emphasis on students' safety and wellness. In working with our on-site Orange County Sheriff, staff and students review and practice safety procedures for the 2019–20 school year.

Mustangs are looking forward to another great year!

Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Educators across the country are increasingly focusing on the health of students, and for good reason.

Along with our commitment to the overall well-being of young people, there is clear scientific evidence linking student health to academic achievement. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, risky behaviors — including early sexual activity, violence and substance use — consistently correlate with poor grades and lower educational attainment.

In short, healthy kids make better students, and better students are more likely to become healthy, successful adults.

This principle has been central to the advancement of health education, which over the last two decades has evolved to become much more comprehensive and evidence-based. California has been a major driver of this effort, developing Health Education Content Standards in 2008 and, more recently, adopting the Health Education Framework to help educators teach these standards.

Before we go further, it's probably worth taking a moment to revisit California's health education standards.

Available online, they essentially describe health concepts and skills that students should possess in six content areas: nutrition and physical activity; growth, development and sexual health; injury prevention and safety; alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; mental, emotional and social health; and personal and community health.

Naturally, the standards vary greatly by grade level.

For example, they say first-graders should be able to explain why sleep and rest are important for growth and good health. Students in grades seven and eight should be able to analyze the nutritional value of different foods and identify ways to increase daily physical activity. High schoolers should be able to demonstrate assertive communication skills to resist pressures to use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Grounded in scientific research, these standards encourage all students to make healthy choices and avoid high-risk behaviors. And now their implementation will be assisted by the "Health Education Framework for California Public Schools," which was approved by the state Board of Education in May 2019 to provide instructional guidance for educators.

As with all frameworks, state funding has been allocated to create professional learning opportunities and resources, and the California Department of Education has appointed OCDE to facilitate the statewide committee that will develop these tools and trainings. This committee includes other county offices of education, universities, state health agencies and the California PTA.

Healthy students, healthy schools and healthy relationships should be the shared goal of educators, parents and policymakers across California, and the Health Education Framework marks an important step.

Far from extraneous to academics, the investments we make today in health education have a direct impact on student learning and will empower young people to make well-informed decisions, contributing to a lifetime of good health.

Fruits & Veggies –Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to:
Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put **PYLUSD** in the subject line.

Entries must be received by December 15, 2019

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a Barnes & Noble \$20 gift card

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



Research: What Parents Need to Know About Kids, Media, and Body Image



How kids think, feel, and act about their bodies is a critical piece of their self-esteem and overall healthy development. Common Sense Media's new research report, *Children, Teens, Media, and Body Image*, examines the role of traditional and digital media in the development of children's and teens' body image. This review of existing research reveals some

surprising trends -- such as that half of 6- to 8-year-old girls feel their ideal body size is thinner than their current one -- but it also shows evidence that parents play a huge part in shaping how kids relate to their bodies. Some key findings:

- Many kids are dissatisfied with their bodies, and society's body appearance ideals are highly unrealistic.
- Body-image concerns start early; even preschoolers learn that society judges people by how they look.

- Parents' attitudes toward their own bodies are a big influence on how kids feel about their bodies.
- Unrealistic, sexualized, and stereotypical images and messages about bodies and gender are rampant in the media kids consume.
- Teens feel pressure to look good and cool online but also feel that social media helps their friendships and connections with like-minded peers.
- Although young girls are most susceptible, boys have issues with body image too.

Our report uncovers large gaps in research on body image and media. Several groups -- young children, boys, kids of color, LGBTQ youth -- are not well-studied, and research on online, digital media has yet to keep pace with the explosion in their use by kids and teens

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



Educators and Girl Scouts: Stronger Together!

Through Girl Scouts, girls succeed academically, develop new talents, and explore their passions. By promoting skills like critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration, Girl Scouts sets girls up for a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure!

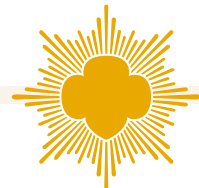
Girl Scouts is the perfect extension to the classroom because Girl Scouts...

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- ▶ is girl-led programing rooted in cooperative learning and learning by doing
- ▶ has 4 program pillars: STEM, Outdoor, Life Skills, Entrepreneurship
- ▶ is the only place where girls can earn the most prestigious award for girls in the world—the Girl Scout Gold Award!

From earning her first Girl Scout Daisy petal in kindergarten to achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award in 12th grade, Girl Scouts is the perfect extension to the classroom, a place where girls discover, connect, and take action!

Learn more at

girlscouts.org/educators



The **Girl Scout Gold Award** is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for girls to engage in a rigorous process that calls for leadership at the highest level, as they tackle issues they feel passionately about.

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- Are active in their communities
- Access a powerful and supportive Girl Scout network

Learn what Girl Scouts are doing in OC at girlscoutsoc.org



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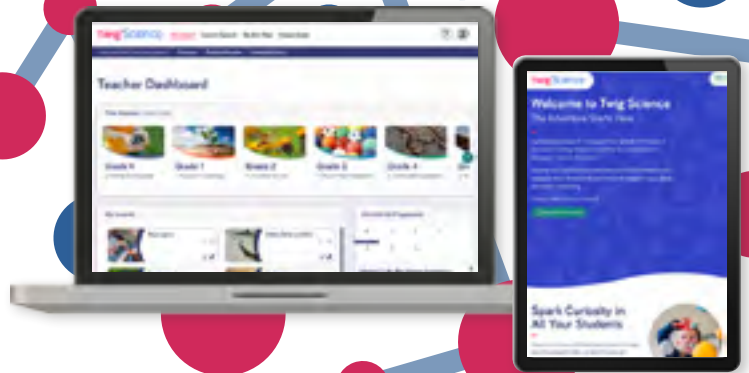
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UCI Health

twig Science



The Adventure Starts Here!

Students across California are on an adventure that will change their lives—and your child could join them! Twig Science is the **ONLY** program built from scratch to deliver the California Next Generation Science Standards for K–8. Recommend us to your Administrator and let your child discover the magic!

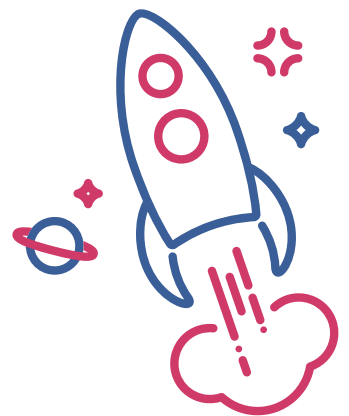
"Twig changed my daughter's view from 'Science is boring' to 'I love science, it's my favorite subject!'"

—Parent of Grade 4 student

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