

# School News

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**Covering the Anaheim Union High School District**



Volume 4, Issue 8

September 2023



## Welcome Back AUHSD!



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## Preventing Disconnection



**Michael B. Matsuda**  
*Superintendent*

In the Anaheim Union High School District, we understand the urgent need to prepare students to navigate successfully the new world fraught with uncertainty and ambiguity.

We are meeting this challenge through our Career Preparedness Systems Framework, a comprehensive workforce development strategy rooted in cultivating workforce pathways through whole child instruction and student agency. Behind this work are

the school district's strategic partnerships with businesses and community colleges and the integration of the 5 Cs framework to support holistic student development.

In addition, we have aligned our human resources practices as they relate to administrators, teachers and staff.

### Priority Partnerships

Our 28,000-student district understands the importance of forging partnerships with businesses and non-profit organizations to provide students with real-world experiences and opportunities. Collaborating with industry leaders, such as Google, allows AUHSD to expose students to cutting-edge technology, earn industry-aligned certificates and gain practical skills that are in high demand in the job market.

These partnerships also provide students with mentorship and internship opportunities, enabling them to develop networks and receive guidance from professionals. By partnering with businesses and non-profit community groups, the district bridges the gap between classroom learning and the realities of the workforce, empowering students to make informed career choices and thrive over time in their chosen fields.

The district also recognizes the value of providing students with the chance to earn college credit while in high school. Through partnerships with community colleges, AUHSD offers dual-credit programs that allow students to explore career pathways in cutting-edge areas,

such as cybersecurity, biotechnology and agrosience. By partnering with community colleges, we enable students to transition seamlessly into post-secondary education and enter the workforce with a competitive advantage.

### Life Skills Training

Developing the whole child is important for success beyond academics. To achieve this, our district has integrated what we call a 5Cs framework into instructional practices: Critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity and compassion. These skills and qualities are woven into the curriculum as students develop essential life skills.

Critical thinking allows students to analyze and solve problems effectively. Communication skills are honed to express ideas clearly and collaborate with peers. Creativity is nurtured to encourage innovative thinking. Compassion fosters empathy, respect and understanding of diverse perspectives.

By prioritizing the development of these competencies, AUHSD prepares students to excel in the workforce and become well-rounded citizens.

### Personnel Alignment

To create a transformative educational environment, AUHSD focuses on aligning HR practices with its vision and goals. The alignment of personnel ensures recruitment and professional development strategies attract and retain high-quality educators who are passionate about our mission. By providing ongoing professional development, the district supports educators in integrating the 5Cs framework into their teaching practices effectively.

Aligning HR practices also facilitates the creation of a positive and inclusive school culture, where educators feel valued and empowered to drive student success. By investing in the growth and development of its educators, AUHSD ensures a collaborative and inspiring learning environment for students.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 23

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# Orange County Department of Education



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent



**Dr. Ramon Miramontes**  
Deputy  
Superintendent  
of Instructional  
Programs

In the Star Wars universe, whenever a spacecraft makes the jump to light speed, the stars outside the cockpit stretch out into luminous streaks. It's a mesmerizing visual of acceleration that brings to mind the dizzying advancement of technology here on planet Earth — and the urgent need for educational systems to keep pace.

With artificial intelligence poised to reshape workplaces and society at large, the Orange County Department of Education is moving ahead with an ambitious initiative that will evaluate and determine the best approaches for integrating AI into teaching and learning. This could include more personalized learning, real-time feedback for students and teachers, or the automation of routine tasks, allowing educators to focus more on matters that demand human insight, judgment and creative thinking.

While the outcomes have yet to be determined, we do know this won't be a solitary endeavor. Led by our Educational Services division, OCDE is taking the first steps of a collaborative journey that will involve school district leaders, industry partners, educators, parents and students. And we envision it taking place in three distinct phases.

The first phase will seek to elevate AI literacy and leadership, establishing a common understanding and terminology in Orange County. The second phase will develop strategies and an implementation plan in collaboration with leaders of the county's 28 independent school districts. Finally, a third phase will evaluate our efforts, gather data and plan for the future. OCDE's

commitment to continuous improvement and community engagement ensures that the feedback loop will remain open, fostering a culture of learning and adaptability.

OCDE has long sought to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to emerging technologies, but AI represents something we haven't quite seen before. These newer tools simulate human intelligence, enabling computers to perform tasks that typically require human cognitive abilities. As such, they have the potential to impact just about every aspect of our work and lives, from teaching and learning to health care, transportation, media, energy, finance and customer service.

While ChatGPT and other publicly available services aren't perfect, remember that they are programmed to learn from us, which means they can and will evolve exponentially. In other words, the examples we see today are the worst versions we're going to encounter moving forward.

Preparing students for an AI-driven future isn't just about passing along technical skills. It's about teaching adaptability, critical thinking and ethical decision-making. By integrating AI literacy across educational settings, OCDE and our partners will be able to equip students with the capacity to navigate an increasingly complex world without losing those traits that make us uniquely human, like kindness, character and artistic expression. And through community engagement, we can pursue a shared vision for AI that aligns with our local values and needs.

The need for education to remain in stride with technology is undeniable, and the Orange County Department of Education has long been a leader in this arena. But collaboration is the key to what lies ahead. That's how we'll ensure that the next generation isn't just ready to embrace the challenges of an AI-driven world, but that they're poised to drive innovation, forge new paths and contribute meaningfully to a future that's constantly in motion.



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



# School News

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Covering the

**ANAHEIM UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop

562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**

Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura

**COPY EDITORS:** Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder

**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison



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**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

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The new school year is underway. It is always exciting for students to meet old friends and make new ones. It is a perfect time to set goals for academic achievement and strive to be the best you can be.

Superintendent Matsuda begins this issue with his message on page 3, Preventing Disconnection.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contests on page 22 (all ages may enter). Congratulations to Ian Guillen, winner of the last contest.



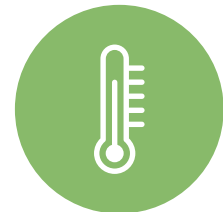
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# AUHSD Alternative Education Programs

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**Jose Lara**  
Coordinator

## Re-Engaging At-Promise Students

Gilbert High School is excited to be starting the Gilbert Deeper Learning Lab this year! The Gilbert Deeper Learning Lab is built on the philosophy of doing whatever it takes to help our students be successful. All students in the Deeper Learning Lab will receive a personalized academic program that includes both social emotional and academic goals. These goals will be given in a SMART goal format and co-developed with students and families. Part of the Deeper Learning Lab's goal is to help students find their voice and purpose.



Weekly social emotional lessons and workshops will be conducted with students and facilitated by teachers, social workers, and outside partners. We will utilize restorative justice circles, SEL lessons, and Mindfulness practices with each student. The students will also participate in and be invited to take full advantage of the AUHSD College and Career Readiness Framework.

Each student in this program will learn the importance and value of their own language, and their community's language and cultural heritage. The students will also take introduction to Spanish as an elective class, and be encouraged to complete the seal of biliteracy, especially if they have a strong home language.

## Educational Services

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**Dr. Jaron Fried**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

## Welcome Back to School!

I am so excited to welcome you back to the new school year! I want to acknowledge the incredible work that our school administrators, teachers and counselors have done over the years. Their dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment have transformed our schools into vibrant centers of learning and growth.

This year, we have a lot to look forward to. As we continue to implement our Career Preparedness Systems Framework, the District has three goals and priorities we will work together to achieve:

- Support and enhance the safety, culture, and climate on our school sites. We have made significant strides in creating welcoming and inclusive environments on all of our campuses. We will continue to improve and refine our systems and approach, ensuring that every student and staff member feels safe, valued, and respected.

- Continue to strengthen the implementation of our capstone program. The capstone will become a cornerstone of our educational approach, empowering our students to explore their passions and apply their knowledge in real-world contexts. We must continue to strengthen this program, refining it to ensure our students graduate with the skills, confidence, and resilience they need to succeed in an ever-changing world.
- Maximize the usage of our Learning Management platform, eKadence. eKadence has proven to be a valuable tool in supporting and enhancing first, best instruction. We are committed to expand its usage, explore its full potential, and harness its capabilities to empower our students and ignite their love for learning.

We are blessed to have the best, brightest, and the most talented educators in the country. I am so proud of the great work being done to serve our students and families so they are empowered "to create a better world through their unlimited you."



**MJ Cooke**  
Program Director

## Workforce Preparedness Standard

In anticipation of the 2023–24 school year, the AIME Program Team has been busy behind the scenes preparing for a very active year of career mentoring and internship experiences for AUHSD students. In fact, our team has been so busy that we are excited to announce that we have added a new member, Julieanne Reall, our career readiness and work-based learning coordinator. Ms. Reall joins the AIME Team with 20 years of experience as a career technical education (CTE) teacher at Anaheim High School, where she aligned classroom learning to the needs of the workforce and life preparedness. She is joining our team straight from the classroom with real-time student engagement, and with her vast CTE industry knowledge and connections, our team cannot wait for the impact she'll have in directly supporting the AIME Program.

With a full team, AIME event's calendar for fall 2023 is quickly filling with a variety of career-mentoring experiences for students. We have Anaheim Public Utilities providing their annual career-mentoring series focused on exploring careers in engineering, sustainability and utilities conservation. This year, we'll have 40 students from Katella and Magnolia high schools coming together to participate in a four-session series led by Anaheim Public Utilities professionals. A highlight of this event series is

always the student presentations, where students deliver an overview of their experience and its impact on their college and career aspirations post-high school.

A few other exciting highlights from AIME's fall lineup included a three-part career-mentoring event series with long-standing AIME partner, Kaiser Permanente, where Kaiser Permanente professionals from a variety of medical-related careers will mentor 75 students from our Patient Care and Public Health Career Pathways at Magnolia, Savanna and Western high schools. We also have JPMorgan Chase returning for a second year to provide a three-part career mentoring event series for all our high schools at their Anaheim Chase Bank branch. During the mentoring sessions, financial-services professionals will guide participating students through the banking and finance industry from both the consumer and industry professional perspective.

This snapshot of the AIME calendar is a sneak peek into the direct impact AIME is having in the lives of AUHSD students. Through career exploration and purposeful engagements with industry professionals, students are better prepared to make decisions about college and careers, and they demonstrate greater confidence in entering the world of work.

Additional information on the AIME Program, including opportunities to support the program, can be found via the AIME website, [anaheimmentoring.org](http://anaheimmentoring.org), and by clicking the "Get Involved" tab.

## Visual & Performing Arts



**Brian Belski**  
Director  
Arts Education

In the AUHSD, we believe Arts Education, which includes music, theater, dance, and visual and media arts, is an essential part of a comprehensive education for all students to prepare them for college, career, and life. Sequential, standards-based arts learning promotes critical thinking and problem-solving skills, supports overall academic achievement, and nurtures skills that help all students succeed in school and in life.

Currently, more than 13,000 of our 27,000 AUHSD students participate in arts education and are served by 93 arts teachers at our 20 campuses. Our students and teachers have been recognized across Orange County and the state of California for their outstanding work. Some recent highlights include:

- Anaheim HS Performing Arts Conservatory (APAC), taught by Sharon King, received 20 county awards and two scholarships for their 2022 musical theater production of "Once On This Island."
- The Savanna HS marching band made their 20th consecutive appearance in the Southern California

School Band & Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) Field Championships in 2022.

- Choir students from both Anaheim HS and Magnolia HS were selected for the 2022 Southern California Vocal Association (SCVA) Honor Choir.
- Band students from both Kennedy HS and Anaheim HS performed in the 2023 Rose Parade as members of the Tournament of Roses Honor Band.
- The Loara HS band became one of the first high school bands to perform onstage at Henry and Renee Segerstrom Concert Hall in the Spring of 2023.
- 2 students from Oxford Academy and Sycamore JHS were selected to the 2023 All-Southern California Junior High School Band and Orchestra and one of them, Robert Gordon, was selected for the 2023 All-State Junior High Honor Band on trombone.
- Lexington JHS art teacher Eve Sullivan was named the 2023 Outstanding Orange County Secondary Visual Art Educator.
- Katella HS Photography teacher Angela Stecher received the Exemplary Programs award from the California Art Educators Association.



# CTE

501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/999-3511 • [www.auhsd.us](http://www.auhsd.us)



**Scott Reindl**  
Program  
Administrator,  
Career Education

## Finding Voice and Purpose

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” In AUHSD, we provide several tools to help students figure out their next steps after graduation. Our work is guided by the Career Preparedness Systems Framework, focused on three pillars: Youth Voice and Purpose, 21st Century Skills and Technical Skills. This framework helps our students develop college and career plans driven by a sense of purpose as well as the skills to achieve their dreams.

So, how do students find their voice and purpose? One of the best ways is by participating in the AIME program, which provides career-exploration opportunities exclusively for AUHSD students. Students can participate in one-day field trips to businesses, multiday mentoring series and internships. To learn more about the AIME program, visit [anaheimmentoring.org](http://anaheimmentoring.org).

In addition, AUHSD provides online career-exploration resources. For example, all students complete a strengths assessment on the Thrively platform, which provides insight into their unique strengths and which can inform career choices. The platform includes additional career resources, including day-in-the-life videos from professionals. Our customized Roadtrip Nation Community hub provides career guidance as well, found at [roadtripnation.com/community/auhsd](http://roadtripnation.com/community/auhsd).

Students can also explore potential careers through their classroom work, including participating in CTE pathways and considering the projects they include in their capstone portfolios. These projects can provide students with clues to professions they may want to explore and can help determine whether they enjoy leading others, writing, design work, presenting or other aspects of their projects.

We hope each student graduates with a strong sense of voice and purpose to guide their college and career journeys. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for our graduates and the positive difference they will make in the world!

## Plurilingual Services

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**Dr. Renae Bryant**  
Director

## Seal of Biliteracy and Pathways to Biliteracy 2023

The advantages of biliteracy and plurilingualism are many: 1) more competitive for college admission, scholarships and career opportunities, 2) greater financial-earning power, 3) ease to communicate when traveling, 4) keeps generations of families connected and 5) greater cognitive ability and neuroplasticity.

In May 2023 Anaheim Union High School District recognized 1,183 scholars for earning Seal of Biliteracy medals in sixteen languages and 1,312 junior high school scholars for earning the District Pathways to Biliteracy Award (medals) and the new California Department of Education Pathways to Biliteracy Award (certificates). Thanks to our scholars, staff and families' diligent work, Seal of Biliteracy awards were earned in the following languages: Arabic, American Sign Language, Farsi, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Malayaman, Mandarin, Portuguese, Sinhala, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, and Vietnamese. One hundred students earned trilateracy awards, earning the Seal of Biliteracy/Trilateracy in three languages.



**AUHSD scholars earned over 1,183 Seal of Biliteracy Awards in sixteen different languages in 2023.**

# Anaheim High School

811 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, CA 92805 • 714/999-371 • [anaheimhs.org](http://anaheimhs.org)



**Ruben Calleros**  
Principal

## Anaheim Simon Builders: Building Homes and Building Futures

This summer our students from our Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) were hard at work getting certified by OSHA and remodeling our BITA classroom and BITA Lab to prepare it for our late partnership called Simon Builders. North Orange County ROP, the Ben Simon Foundation, and ROP Teacher of the Year Grady McNulty led the way to create this

opportunity for our Anaheim students. Here at Anaheim High School, we are a center of learning and service and value an education that serves students. In addition to earning credits towards graduation, the Simon Builders participate in a paid internship. Our Simon Builders are gaining trade skills, learning about financial literacy, building networks in the field, and giving back to the community with the Tiny Homes Lab. We look forward to witnessing the finished products and craftsmanship of our inaugural year of Simon Builders.



# Welcome Back to School Have a Great Year!

## Ball Junior High School

1500 W. Ball Rd., Anaheim, CA 92802 • 714/999-3663 • [ball.auhsd.us](http://ball.auhsd.us)



**Poppy Hill-Bonales**  
Principal

### Dreaming Together

At Ball JHS, the Family and Community Engagement Center is a hub for students, families, and community members to access resources and support. The Family and Community Engagement Specialist (FACES) and the Community Schools Coordinator work alongside local partners to provide important resources such as school supplies, uniform assistance, hygienic products, free public bus transportation, and more.

We partner with local organizations, such as the Second Harvest Food Bank and Mary's Kitchen, to address food

insecurity in our community. We also host monthly on-site food distribution events for the community, which expanded in the 2022-2023 school year to include clothing and housewares donated by Ball staff and families. In January of 2023, a group of staff and student volunteers, in partnership with the Anaheim Community Foundation, created Ball's Community Pantry. This pantry, which is stocked with dry goods, is available to our students, our families, and our community.

By continuing to expand our network of partners, we are creating opportunities for our community to access the resources they need. This important work is perfectly aligned to our school's vision. Ball Blackhawks are empowered to dream and grow together.



## Brookhurst Junior High School

601 N. Brookhurst Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/999-3613 • [brookhurst.org](http://brookhurst.org)



**Gilbert Amancio**  
Principal

### School-Wide Reading Project

This year, Brookhurst Junior High is embarking on an exciting new journey! We will soon be doing a school-wide read of the novel *Efrén Divided*, by Ernesto Cisneros. In case you have not read the book, it is about Efrén, his father, and his siblings as they traverse living in America after their mom has been deported.

We will begin our novel's study at the beginning of October at a kickoff assembly with games and performances. All students will read the novel in their English/Language Arts class. Cross-curricular lessons will be taught throughout the reading of the novel as well. We will end the unit right before

December. Since the author, Mr. Cisneros, is a local, we are also hoping that he will visit our school to discuss his novel!

Our goal for this school-wide read is to create a sense of community among students and staff members, and to share a common experience that we can all reflect upon. We hope that our students can learn about and have greater empathy for those who are dealing with familial issues outside of school, and/or be able to see their own story reflected back at them to know that they are not alone in dealing with these issues. Through this project, we hope that everyone will gain a deeper understanding of each other and each others' stories.

We are looking forward to a great school-wide project this year!

# Cambridge Virtual Academy

830 S. Dale St., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/999-7757 • [cambridge.auhsd.us](http://cambridge.auhsd.us)



**Hilda Vazquez**  
Principal

## Adventures Await, Let's Go Bees!

Cambridge Virtual Academy (CVA) continues to trail blaze new ways of teaching and learning. We understand that traditional education models may not always meet the needs of every student, which is why we have created a unique 100 percent tuition-free, course-based virtual academy that embraces innovation and personalized learning.

CVA is designed to prepare students for the future, and so we offer a wide range of challenging AP and honors courses, internships, career pathways, and dual-enrollment opportunities for college credit. Students have access to a diverse array of courses that cater to their interests and passions, including distinctive electives like Mindfulness, ethnic studies, Exploring Entrepreneurship, computer science, and even the opportunity to earn Google Certificates.



### Students attending orientation at CVA Learning Lab.

This year we are excited to be introducing our students to the fascinating world of artificial intelligence (AI). CVA is at the forefront of incorporating AI tools and concepts



### Some students from the Class of 2023 celebrating after their graduation

into the curriculum. From exploring AI in computer science to discussing the ethical implications of AI in our society, CVA students will have the opportunity to dive into this cutting-edge field and gain valuable insights into the new technology that is shaping our world.

Our goal is to empower students to take control of their education and explore new frontiers. We are proud of our Class of 2023 achievements, who had a 100 percent graduation rate, a 96 percent A-G eligibility, a state Seal of Civic Engagement, and are committed to attending prestigious universities in the fall like UCLA, UCI, UC Santa Cruz, Chapman, and Otis College of Art and Design. It is going to “bee” an exciting year here at the Beehive!

If you are interested in learning more about our school, or are just curious about our programs, give us a call at 714-999-7757, or email [CVA@auhsd.us](mailto:CVA@auhsd.us) for more information. Go, Bees!

## Cypress High School

9801 Valley View St., Cypress, CA 90630 • (714) 220-4144 • [cypress.auhsd.us](http://cypress.auhsd.us)



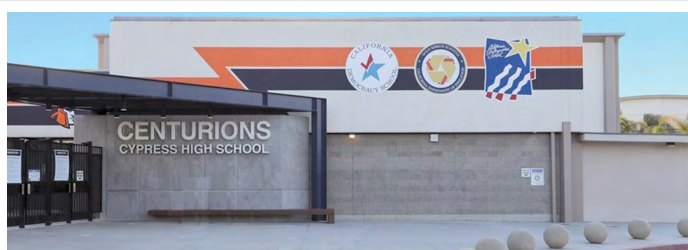
**Jennifer Brown**  
Principal

## Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence

Embracing growth, tradition, and the power of possibility! We proudly recognize the remarkable milestone of our 50-year anniversary, and enthusiastically celebrate how Cypress High School is a living testament to the power of vision and determination.

From its inception, our school has embodied the spirit of “See the Possibility.” This mantra has guided us to perceive windows of opportunity where others see only closed doors. With an unyielding commitment to “Kaizen,” the philosophy of continuous improvement, we have nurtured a culture of excellence that thrives on progress.

But excellence does not thrive in isolation. Our school is a vibrant community that believes in the principle that education is for all. This inclusivity ensures that every



student's potential can be unlocked, celebrated, and nurtured. From our dynamic classrooms to our thriving champion athletics programs, our commitment to fostering growth and success knows no bounds.

Our tradition of “Veni Vidi Vici” – I came, I saw, I conquered – echoes through our achievements. It reminds us that creativity is just intelligence having fun. As we celebrate the past we also embrace the future, for excellence knows no boundaries. Here's to 50 years of inspiration and the exciting journey ahead!

## Dale Junior High School

900 S. Dale Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/220-4210 • [dale.auhsd.us](http://dale.auhsd.us)



**Rafael Santiago**  
*Principal*

### Welcome, Students!

Excitement filled the air as Dale Junior High School opened its doors today, ushering in a new era of education for the students of Dale Junior High School. The state-of-the-art facility, equipped with modern amenities and cutting-edge technology, promises to provide an exceptional learning environment for the young minds of tomorrow.

Dale Junior High School boasts an impressive curriculum, offering a wide range of subjects that include STEAM, arts, humanities and athletics. The faculty members are dedicated professionals that have expertise and a passion for what they do—we are all committed to nurturing students' talents and guiding them toward success.

Parents and students alike were thrilled with the school's spacious classrooms, well-equipped science labs and extensive library. The school's emphasis on



extracurricular activities and clubs also garnered praise, promising a well-rounded educational experience.

In the second full year since the reopening, Dale Junior High School continues to set the stage for a bright future, instilling a love for learning and preparing students for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

## Hope School

7901 Knott Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/220-4199 • [hope.auhsd.us](http://hope.auhsd.us)



**Louie LeMonnier**  
*Principal*

### Where Democracy Thrives!

Greetings, AUHSD Community! We are overjoyed to share a remarkable achievement that has us bursting with pride. Hope School, already renowned as the number one special education school in America, has now garnered another feather in its cap by being recognized as a California Democracy School! In a world where diversity and inclusivity are our guiding stars, Hope School has shown us all that every voice matters. Our students, who radiate positivity and determination, are now part of an educational legacy that reaches far beyond the classroom.

With this prestigious recognition, we stand tall as pioneers, being the first and only special education school in California to hold this honor. At Hope School, we believe in fostering more than just academics--we cultivate civic engagement as a powerful tool to shape the future. Our students are not just learners--they are also the architects of change, painting their aspirations on the canvas of democracy.



Let's celebrate this achievement together as we continue to nurture a community where everyone thrives and every idea counts. Here's to Hope School - where the journey of learning leads to a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow!



**Chuck Hernandez**  
Principal

## The Link Crew Program is Back!

Katella High School has re-established and upgraded their Link Crew Program. Link Crew is a high school transition program that works to increase attendance, decrease discipline referrals, and improve academic performance in schools. The program's purpose is to make schools a safe and connected place for our children to learn.

The Boomerang Project established a Link Crew program at Lawndale High School in 2013. Today, Link Crew operates at 3,705 schools in 47 U.S. states.

At Katella, with the help of veteran staff members, our incoming juniors and seniors were interviewed to become "Link Leaders" at the end of last school year. These leaders have since attended over 10 hours of training. The goals of the program include empowering juniors and seniors as role models, teaching leadership and initiative, exposing students to a variety of positive influences on campus, and increasing academic success campus-wide.

On August 4, 2023, Katella's Link Crew hosted a Freshman Orientation event on campus for all of the incoming freshmen. Here the students were able to meet and build connections with their own classmates, as well as learn who their Link Crew leaders would be for the duration of their freshman year.

One current Link Crew leader, Daisy Silva, described her experience by noting that "the incoming ninth-graders were nervous at first, but they got more comfortable as they went through the various activities. The best part was that they started to get to know each other."

Katella's Link Crew program will be led this year by English teacher and ASB Assistant Director Michelle Duncan, alongside science teacher and ASB Director Scott Wilmoth. Mrs. Duncan's vision for the program is to ensure that all of our freshmen can find connection and success at Katella. Duncan noted, "This program gives us the structure and foundation to create and maintain a positive school culture, and I look forward to being part of this program's comeback."



**2023-24 Katella Link Crew Leaders at Freshman Orientation.**

## Kennedy High School

8281 Walker St., La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/220-4101 • [kennedy.auhsd.us](http://kennedy.auhsd.us)



**Dr. Seema Sidhu**  
Principal

### Link Crew

Kennedy High School is proud to implement Link Crew for the first time in the school's history. Link Crew is a program designed to connect juniors and seniors with freshmen for an entire school year to help them make a smooth transition from junior high to high school. Social science teacher and Link Crew advisor Amy Staton selected leaders who are compassionate, encouraging, spirited, and involved in various activities across campus.

Kennedy Link Crew currently has 98 juniors and seniors working together in partner groups. Each partner group has approximately 10 freshmen they will be mentoring throughout the year. This means that every freshman at Kennedy has the opportunity to benefit from this program.

Additionally, Link Crew leaders will be planning and hosting a variety of activities throughout the school year to help our freshmen succeed academically and get involved socially at Kennedy.

According to the Boomerang Project, which developed the Link Crew program, "studies show that if students have a positive experience their first year in high school, their chance for success increases dramatically. Link Crew provides the structure for freshmen to receive support and guidance from juniors and seniors who have been through the challenges that high school poses and understand that the transition to a larger school can sometimes be overwhelming."

We look forward to seeing the positive impact Link Crew will have on our campus and look forward to offering this to all our future freshmen classes. Go Irish!

## Lexington Junior High School

4351 Orange Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-4201 • [lexington.auhsd.us](http://lexington.auhsd.us)



**Daniel Klatzker**  
Principal

### Hit the Ground Running!

Lexington Junior High is ready and excited for the school year, with 1,270 new and returning students! To help welcome our new students, we held a seventh-grade and new-student orientation prior to the start of the year. The campus was alive and full of smiles as students received their schedules, had an assembly, and were given campus tours by ASB.

We are also excited to announce that we will be bringing back our wellness space, The Lion Lounge, in

partnership with CHOC/OCDE, which will be revising the space and providing furniture. The center will continue to provide our students with a calm and quiet space to decompress and learn and practice coping skills to manage stress and emotions as well as a space for staff and students to build community.

As we start every year, we focus on community building. Built into the first two weeks of the school year were social/emotional learning and community-building opportunities for all our seventh- and eighth-grade students. We've hit the ground running and are ready for an amazing year!



# Loara High School

1765 W. Cerritos, Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/999-3677 • [loara.uhisd.us](http://loara.uhisd.us)



**Gary Brown**  
Principal

## A Great Partnership to Offer our Students More

At Loara High School, we aim to prepare our students for college and career. We have found that our students gain awareness from experience and having options within our CTE (Career Technical Education) courses. AUHSD and Loara have partnered with North Orange County Regional Occupational Program (NOROP) to help introduce a wide variety of career opportunities. Students are able to meet A-G and graduation requirements while gaining

real life work experiences during the school day in these classes. At Loara, students can choose from a variety of classes/pathways which include: Child Development, Graphic Design, Production and Managerial Arts (Video production), Financial Services (Business Finances, accounting, and Banking internships), Drone Technology, Patient Care (Medical careers and Sports Medicine), Public Safety, Software and Systems development, and Systems diagnostics service and repair (Automotive). These programs allow students to gain experience while still in High School and places students on a path towards possible future careers.



# Magnolia High School

2450 W. Ball Rd., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/220-4221 • [magnolia.uhisd.us](http://magnolia.uhisd.us)



**Aaron Chau**  
Principal

## Community Schools

*By Robert "Bobby" Flores, Assistant Principal*

At Magnolia High School, we've harnessed the power of the Magnolia Agriscience Community Center (MACC) with our community schools to create a synergistic mechanism to address the whole child as well as the whole community, which is located in a food desert. The MACC directly addresses the needs of

the students by providing access to fresh fruits and vegetables during lunch. In addition, farm-to-fork produce boxes, grown at the MACC, are sold to the public. With each box sold, another box is donated to the surrounding community. The MACC, no doubt, is an asset to the Magnolia community and is open to serve our entire district as well.



**Audrey, a senior, facilitating a community bus tour to Magnolia High School teachers and staff.**



## MACC students inform incoming freshmen students and their parents about the importance of buying locally grown produce.

The MACC was a highlight during registration on Magnolia's community bus tour. During the tour, both students and parents were docents who informed our teachers and staff of both the assets and challenges as well as actions that took place to meet those challenges. This type of collaboration among students, parents and the school is in line with the philosophy of the community school's model.

Audrey, a senior, an ASB member and a CS Site Team member, facilitated a community tour. She said that she loved the experience and that it made her feel like her community was seen and heard by the teachers and staff at Magnolia High School.



# Orangeview Junior High School

3715 W. Orange Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/220-4205 • [orangeview.uahsd.us](http://orangeview.uahsd.us)



**Bindi Crawford**  
Principal

## What a Kickoff!

The Orangeview Panthers started off the school year paws-itively! Seventh-grade students and their families were invited to our first-ever Panther Preview Night, where students were able to practice going to their classes two days before school started. We celebrated the start of junior high with over 500 students and family members on campus!

We are excited about many things at Orangeview, including our new bell schedule that will give students the opportunity to focus on social-emotional learning and netiquette and time to work on their OV Capstone project, and built-in time during the school day for academic intervention. This new system was created by our staff and students. We kicked off our first Fun Friday bell schedule of the 2023–24 school year with a school takeover by 102.7 KIISFM on Aug. 25!

In addition to our new bell schedule, we are excited about our new partnership with the Anaheim Police Department, which will bring a dedicated school resource officer to be shared between Western and Orangeview. Our new partnership with a local grocery store will be

utilized on Fun Fridays to reward students for making good choices, being brilliant students, and showing acts of kindness throughout the school year.

We can't wait to see what our students accomplish this year! Go Panthers!



**Our Adm team with our Anaheim PD partners.**

## Oxford Academy

5172 Orange Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-3055 • [oxford.uahsd.us](http://oxford.uahsd.us)



**Amber Houston**  
Principal

## Building Excellence

School may have been technically on “summer vacation,” but our students and staff were still hard at work being awesome! Over summer, our 1,430 AP tests came in with over 90% of our 533 students scoring at a 3 or above. What a testament to dedicated students and a believing staff!

With this being said, our registration and course selection were beautifully blended for our upcoming classes, with 1,729 students taking AP, 294 students taking dual enrollment, 100% in CTE pathways and 90% in world languages. At Oxford, our students are truly unlimited! But the best part is the balance created in this overachieving environment of these world changers.

Not only do we mean business but we also know how to have fun while serving others! Our ASB, Link Crew and Clubs have been volunteering time to better our school by building culture, community and spirit! We can't forget our athletics this past year, where our soccer team made it all the way to the CIF Championship Game! We also brought Golf to OA with a full team this fall semester.



We're welcoming around 235 new seventh-graders out of over 600 that applied; we have the future class of 2029 ready to take on the world! Oxford Academy Excellence!

# Savanna High School

301 N. Gilbert St., Anaheim, CA 9280 • 714/220-4262 • [savanna.uhisd.us](http://savanna.uhisd.us)



**Mike Pooley**  
Principal

## Together We are Savanna!

Savanna High School opened its doors for the 2023-2024 school year on Aug. 9, 2023 with great energy! Students arrived early for zero period and to pick up their schedules, reconnect with friends and to eat breakfast together. The campus was festive and looked great because of our awesome ASB leaders, who arrived early to decorate. In addition students were greeted as then entered the campus by a lively drum line performance, cheerleaders were loud and encouraging, and our Link Crew Leaders helped students find classrooms. Our amazing staff welcomed students into their classrooms by greeting them at their doors to check in as well as hosting several “get to know you” activities. Our goal was to establish a positive connection to Savanna High School staff and students on day 1 and with our efforts, we are very optimistic about this school year. We are striving to create a learning environment that is safe, fun and encourages students to find their passion and purpose. Learning is life...



# South Junior High School

2320 E. South St., Anaheim, CA 9280 • 714/999-3667 • [south.uhisd.us](http://south.uhisd.us)



**Yolanda Mejia**  
Principal

## The South-Katella DLI Academy is Finally Here!

We are thrilled to announce the official launch of the Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program at South. The development of this program has been underway since 2021.

Throughout the past school year, while meticulously planning program details and actively engaging in various community events,



our DLI team, in partnership with Dr. Renae Bryant, successfully transformed this school goal into a reality!

Our program, which currently serves 52 South students, has been designed based on a 50/50 model and includes coursework in three different subjects in Spanish. We are happy to introduce our DLI team; Mrs. Leslie Gomez, our World History teacher, Mrs. Diana Perez, our Integrated Math teacher and Ms. Karen Renteria, our Spanish for Spanish Speakers II teacher and program coordinator.

We are very grateful to all the stakeholders that were involved in making this goal possible. We are looking forward to seeing our program grow and to continue serving our plurilingual families throughout the district. ¡Vamos águilas!



## Sycamore Junior High School

1801 E. Sycamore St., Anaheim, CA 92805 • 714/999-3616 • [sycamore.auhsd.us](http://sycamore.auhsd.us)



**Nancy Cortez**  
Principal

### Fun Competition

After many years, Sycamore is happy to announce that assemblies are back! The Summer heat and limited space were no deterrent for these determined Buccys! Utilizing a “Triple Bell Assembly Schedule”, Sycamore school was able to come together, one group at a time, for our first assembly of the year. Our

Spiderman-themed assembly started with some fun competition where students and staff both participated in our game “Spider Web Scramble.” The administration was able to address students with our “Admin Expectations” presentation, and each class got to practice mindfulness and creativity in creating a “collaborative collage” to be hung in each classroom. We have five assemblies planned for the 2023- 2024 school year, which will involve department versus department competitions, speakers, and intentional classroom culture-building activities. Come on by and catch the excitement at Sycamore!



## Walker Junior High School

8132 Walker St., La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/220-4051 • [walker.auhsd.us](http://walker.auhsd.us)



**Dr. Jennifer Sasai**  
Principal

### Prioritizing Mental Health

Walker Junior High School has taken a proactive step toward prioritizing students’ mental well-being. Recognizing the growing importance

of school-based mental health supports our school ambitions to foster a nurturing environment where students can flourish both academically and emotionally.

Our comprehensive approach integrates mental-health education and mindfulness practices into the school’s curriculum. By embedding these elements into the daily routine, Walker Junior High School seeks to reduce stigma surrounding mental health and encourage open conversations.



Our core focus lies in early intervention and prevention. Trained mental-health staff and educators work collaboratively to identify struggling students and provide timely assistance, ensuring that emotional challenges do not impede their learning journey. The principal hosts a Kindness Club to emphasize the need for students to lead with kindness. The assistant principals utilize a wellness check-in survey with each student prior to meeting with them. Counselors, the school social worker and the school psychologist are all on-site full time to support the various mental health needs of the community.

By fostering emotional intelligence and coping skills, Walker Junior High School equips students with tools they can carry into adulthood.



**Lorena Moreno**  
Principal

## Unleashing the Power of Community Schools

In today's education landscape, community schools have emerged as dynamic agents of change, catering to more than just academics. We have embraced the potential of community schools to create a lasting impact on students and their families. With a theme that resonates powerfully with the Olympic spirit--"Faster, Stronger, Higher, Together"-- our school's commitment to unity and progress is evident in its every endeavor.

Community schools redefine education by extending their role beyond the classroom, addressing diverse student and community needs. Our theme embodies unity and growth, fostering healthy competition alongside mutual support.

The journey toward becoming a true community school often starts with understanding the community it serves. Our Community Schools team orchestrated a community tour--a Reflective Learning Walk--to offer staff members an immersive experience. This tour aimed to shed light on the challenges and opportunities faced by West Anaheim's students and families. This experience was eye-opening for staff members. It yielded five pivotal takeaways that highlighted the essence of community schools:

- **Student Voice and Leadership Matter:** Involving students in decision-making empowers them as leaders, nurturing a sense of ownership and agency.
- **Understanding Challenges and Cultivating Empathy:** Teachers gained deeper insights into students' backgrounds, fostering empathy and better support.
- **Positive Impact of Community Schools:** The tour reinforced the positive outcomes of addressing academic, social and emotional needs collectively.
- **Creating Safe and Supportive Environments:** A secure and supportive environment is essential for student growth, encouraging exploration and learning.
- **Collaboration of Schools and Community Partners:** The tour highlighted collaboration's role in providing resources, mentorship and opportunities.

Western High School embraces the community school model, and our "Faster, Stronger, Higher, Together" theme exemplifies the power of education as a tool for change. By understanding the needs of our community and aligning our efforts with the Olympic spirit of unity and excellence, Western is not just imparting knowledge but also creating a transformative experience that resonates far beyond the classroom.



# Sourish's Review



**Sourish M.**

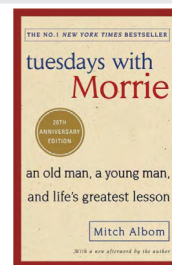
## The Master of Crime!!

Ding! The thought of solving another crime popped into the head of Artemis Fowl, a 12 year old boy. He is a master investigator and wanted to prove that fairies exist. When Artemis learns about a sprite fairy appearance, he and his bodyguard, Butler, travel to find *The Fairy Holy Book* as well as the sprite to exchange it for ransom gold. Captain Holly Short, the sprite fairy, was trying to capture a troll which escaped from her world but as she was leaving, Artemis had arrived... Soon after the fairies learn about the capture, they ask a criminal for help to save their captain which results in a major plot twist. *Artemis Fowl* is a great book packed with fast-paced action and suspense! This book allows creativity to flow and describes the real meaning behind efforts. Eoin Colfer truly expresses how selfish actions can be used for a selfless outcome!



## The Loving Relationship of Life!

Have you ever had a deep connection with a mentor or teacher? The book *Tuesdays with Morrie* shows the understanding of a teacher who has had an impact on one of his students. After a couple years of graduation, Mitch and Morrie run into each other and from that day on meet every Tuesday hence giving the book the name. This book brings to light a disease which has affected many people, ALS. This book is full of wholesome moments and shows the bond between two people who care for each other so much. While some parts may be somber it conveys an important life message to spend time with the people that have made you the person you are and care about. The true meaning of a loving relationship is shown in this book with Mitch and Morrie taking care of each other, and living life to the fullest!



Sourish M. is an eighth grader who is enthusiastic to learn and understand how the world works. He likes Science, Engineering, Reading, swimming, plays soccer, Basketball, Guitar, Viola and has fun with friends and family. Sourish loves to spend long hours in nature and expanding his experiences by traveling with his family.

### STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION (EC §§200, 220, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973):

The Anaheim Union High School District Governing Board is committed to providing equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs, activities, practices, and employment shall be free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

A copy of the District's nondiscrimination policy is available from the District office or on the District website under Board Policies (Board Policy 8900).

A copy of the District's sexual harassment policy is available from the District office or on the District website under Board Policies (Board Policy 8708).

A copy of the District's Section 504 policy is available from the District office or on the District website under Board Policies (Board Policy 8200).

#### GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Complaints alleging noncompliance with the District's policy of nondiscrimination should be directed to:

##### **Nondiscrimination Compliance Coordinator**

Brad Jackson

Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Anaheim Union High School District  
501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801  
jackson\_b@auhsd.us

Complaints alleging noncompliance with the District's sexual harassment policy (Title IX) should be directed to:

##### **Title IX Coordinator (Students)**

Lorena Stout

Anaheim Union High School District  
501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801  
stout\_l@auhsd.us

Complaints alleging noncompliance with the District's Section 504 policy should be directed to:

##### **Section 504 Coordinator**

Amy Kwon

Director, Learning & Development  
Anaheim Union High School District  
501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801  
kwon\_a@auhsd.us

# Leadership 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put AUHSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by October 30, 2023

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

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished  | Organized      |
| Caring        | Powerful       |
| Confident     | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model     |
| Drive         | Strong Willed  |
| Enthusiastic  | Suitable       |
| Focused       | Teamwork       |
| Independent   | Trustworthy    |
| Initiative    | Understanding  |
| Intelligent   |                |

**Congratulations to Ian Guillen**  
**Winner of the last Word Search Contest!**



# Halloween 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put AUHSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by October 30, 2023

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

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





**Michael B. Matsuda**  
Superintendent

We measure the effectiveness of the school district's workforce development initiatives and use those measures for continuous improvements. Our college-going rates, persistence and GPAs have also significantly and consistently outperformed college averages and by analyzing student performance, post-graduation outcomes and feedback from stakeholders, AUHSD can assess its programs. This data-driven approach developed with a non-profit learning platform called eKadence that allows teachers to assess student talent through the lens of the 5Cs.

## Proactive Prep

By embracing the Career Preparedness Systems Framework, AUHSD demonstrates its commitment to equipping students for long-term success.

As business marketing expert Seth Godin once said, "Change almost never fails because it's too early. It almost always fails because it's too late." AUHSD's strategic work exemplifies a proactive approach to education that we believe will ensure students are ready to navigate the evolving landscape and thrive in their careers and life.



# CHOOSE YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS!



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- ST. JUDE MEDICAL



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THROUGH COMPLETION OF  
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**\* 43% INCREASE IN UCI'S  
ADMISSION FROM AUHSD**

## THE EDUCATIONAL PLEDGE

*Our* PLEDGE PARTNERS

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IRVINE
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
FULLERTON
- CYPRESS COLLEGE
- FULLERTON COLLEGE

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ANAHEIM UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT