

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Garden Grove Unified School District



Volume 8, Issue 15

November 2023



Students Celebrate GGUSD's Diversity and Cultural Traditions



SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gabriela Mafi
Superintendent

GGUSD Staff and Students are Goal-Getters

We kicked off the 2023-2024 school year with a renewed commitment to our district's three goals of equipping all students with the academic skills (Goal 1) and the personal skills (Goal 2) for lifelong success (Goal 3). Those goals inspire and impact the work we do on a daily basis, and are evident in our accomplishments.

Goal 1: Our amazing teachers and instructional staff do an exceptional job providing rigorous curriculum and instruction that leads to academic growth. Our preliminary SBAC scores show that GGUSD students made gains over last year in both ELA and Math and we're confident that GGUSD scores will continue to exceed the state and county average! Our English Learner scores also reflect similar gains. We continue to invest into classroom support, doubling our number of classroom aides over the last two years and our schools are offering more before and after school extended learning programs than ever before!

Goal 2: In GGUSD, we believe in supporting the whole child, investing resources into students' well-being and ensuring they feel safe and welcome while at school. Last year, we implemented STOPit, an anonymous reporting platform that has allowed us to intervene and help

students who are struggling with personal challenges and mental health concerns. We also provided students in fifth through 12th grade with the opportunity to use Seity Health, a platform that provides daily wellness support. We've also greatly expanded school-based mental health counseling and our schools are implementing important No Place for Hate initiatives.

Goal 3: Finally, each year we celebrate when our high school graduates leave us ready for success in their college and career pathways! We are proud that the Class of 2023 graduated with more than 6,800 college credits earned through dual enrollment opportunities and that over 60% of GGUSD students meet rigorous a-g college entrance requirements for UC/CSU schools. Our robust Career and Technical Education program also prepares students for high-paying 21st century careers by equipping students with workplace skills while they are in high school. Students can choose from exciting Career Pathways like Automotive Technology, Engineering and Product Design, Medical, Hospitality, and more.

GGUSD staff and students are goal-getters and we know that our GGUSD goals are making a profound positive impact in the lives of our students. But we can't do it alone. GGUSD also values the partnership of our families and we work alongside parents to ensure they have the tools to help their child on their own unique path to lifelong success. That's the Garden Grove Way.



SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gabriela Mafi
Superintendent

Los Alumnos y el Personal del GGUSD Logran sus Metas

Iniciamos el año escolar 2023-2024 con un compromiso renovado a las tres metas de nuestro Distrito de preparar a todos los alumnos con las habilidades académicas (Meta 1) y las habilidades personales (Meta 2) para el éxito de por vida (Meta 3). Esas metas inspiran e impactan el trabajo que hacemos diariamente, y son evidentes en nuestros logros.

Meta 1: Nuestros maravillosos maestros y el personal de instrucción hacen un trabajo excepcional al proporcionar un currículo riguroso que conduce al crecimiento académico. ¡Nuestros puntajes preliminares en las Evaluaciones del Consorcio Smarter Balanced (SBAC) muestran que el año pasado los alumnos del GGUSD han progresado tanto en las Artes de Lenguaje en Inglés (ELA) como en Matemáticas y estamos seguros de que los puntajes del GGUSD continuarán superando el promedio del estado y del condado! Los puntajes de nuestros Estudiantes de Inglés también reflejan progresos similares. ¡Continuamos invirtiendo en el apoyo para los salones de clases, duplicando nuestro número de asistentes de maestros en los últimos dos años y nuestras escuelas están ofreciendo como nunca antes, más programas de aprendizaje extendido antes y después del horario regular de clases!

Meta 2: En el GGUSD, creemos en apoyar al niño en su totalidad, invirtiendo recursos para el bienestar de los alumnos y asegurando que ellos se sientan seguros y bienvenidos mientras están en la escuela. El año pasado, implementamos STOPit, una plataforma de informes anónimos que nos ha permitido intervenir y ayudar a los alumnos que están teniendo dificultades con desafíos personales y problemas de salud mental. También les brindamos a los alumnos del 5.º al 12.º grado la oportunidad de utilizar Seity Health, una plataforma que proporciona apoyo de bienestar a diario. También hemos ampliado considerablemente los servicios de consejería de salud mental basada en la escuela y nuestras escuelas están implementando importantes iniciativas de No Hay Lugar para el Odio.

Meta 3: Finalmente, ¡cada año celebramos cuando nuestros graduados de la escuela secundaria nos dejan, listos para el éxito en sus trayectorias universitarias y profesionales! Estamos orgullosos de que la Clase del 2023 se haya graduado con más de 6,800 créditos universitarios que obtuvieron por medio de las oportunidades de cursos de doble inscripción, y que más del 60% de los alumnos del GGUSD cumplen con los rigurosos requisitos a-g para la admisión a los planteles de la Universidad de California (UC) y la Universidad Estatal de California (CSU). Nuestro sólido programa de Educación de Carreras Técnicas también prepara a los alumnos para las carreras profesionales altamente remuneradas del siglo XXI al equiparlos con las habilidades de trabajo mientras están en la escuela secundaria. Los alumnos pueden elegir emocionantes trayectorias profesionales como la tecnología automotriz, ingeniería y diseño de productos, medicina, industria hotelera y más.

Los alumnos y el personal del GGUSD logran sus metas y sabemos que las metas de nuestro GGUSD están causando un impacto positivo y profundo en las vidas de nuestros alumnos. Pero no podemos lograrlo solos. El GGUSD también valora la colaboración de nuestras familias y trabajamos junto con los padres de familia para asegurar que tengan las herramientas para ayudar a su hijo en su propia trayectoria hacia el éxito de por vida. Eso es a la Manera de Garden Grove.

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SUPERINTENDENT

Toàn Thể Nhân Viên Và Học Sinh GGUSD Hướng Đến Mục Tiêu Chung

Khởi đầu niên học 2023-2024, chúng ta tiếp tục tái lập ba mục tiêu của học khu với cam kết trang bị cho tất cả học sinh năng lực học tập (Mục Tiêu 1) và năng lực cá nhân (Mục Tiêu 2) để thành công trên đường đời (Mục Tiêu 3). Những mục tiêu này truyền cảm hứng, tạo động lực trong công việc hằng ngày và thể hiện rõ qua những thành tích chúng ta đạt được.

Mục Tiêu 1: Đội ngũ giáo viên và nhân viên giảng dạy tận tụy đảm nhận nhiệm vụ mỹ mãn truyền đạt học trình cam go nhằm thúc đẩy các em tiến bộ. Điểm SBAC sơ khởi cho thấy học sinh của GGUSD đạt tiến bộ nhiều hơn năm trước về cả hai môn Anh Văn (ELA) và Toán. Chúng tôi tin chắc rằng GGUSD sẽ tiếp tục vượt mức điểm trung bình của các trường trong tiểu bang và quận hạt! Điểm của Học Sinh Trau Giỏi Anh Ngữ cũng thể hiện sự thăng tiến tương tự. Chúng tôi tiếp tục đầu tư vào việc hỗ trợ lớp học, gia tăng gấp đôi số nhân viên trợ giáo trong hai năm qua, đồng thời cung cấp nhiều chương trình học thêm vào trước và sau giờ học tại các trường hơn bao giờ hết!

Mục Tiêu 2: Tại GGUSD, chúng tôi tin tưởng vào việc giúp trẻ em phát triển toàn diện, tìm kiếm các phương thức hỗ trợ sự an vui của học sinh, đồng thời bảo đảm cho các em cảm thấy an toàn và được tiếp đón khi đến trường. Năm trước chúng tôi đã thực hiện STOPit, nền mạng báo cáo ẩn danh tạo điều kiện cho chúng ta can thiệp và giúp đỡ những em có hoàn cảnh khó

khăn, gặp trở ngại về sức khoẻ tâm thần. Chúng tôi cũng tạo cơ hội cho học sinh từ lớp 5 đến lớp 12 sử dụng Seity Health, một nền mạng hỗ trợ sự an vui hằng ngày. Chúng tôi cũng đã mở thêm nhiều dịch vụ tư vấn sức khỏe tâm thần tại trường học, đồng thời thực thi các sáng kiến quan trọng Không Dung Túng cho Sự Thù Ghét.

Mục tiêu 3: Cuối cùng, mỗi năm, học khu chúc mừng các em học sinh tốt nghiệp trung học, sẵn sàng gặt hái thành công trên bước đường đại học và nghề nghiệp của mình! Chúng tôi tự hào về những học sinh tốt nghiệp Khoá 2023 đã đạt trên 6,800 tín chỉ đại học qua các lớp song trình và hơn 60% học sinh GGUSD đáp ứng điều kiện về các lớp a-g cam go để được tuyển nhận vào hệ thống đại học UC/ CSU. Chương Trình Giáo Dục Kỹ Thuật Và Hướng Nghiệp đa dạng của chúng tôi cũng chuẩn bị cho học sinh ngay khi còn ở bậc trung học với những kỹ năng chuyên môn cần thiết cho các nghề được trả lương cao trong thế kỷ 21. Chương Trình Hướng Nghiệp có các lớp dạy nghề hữu dụng như Sửa Xe Ô Tô, Kỹ Thuật Công Trình và Hoà Kiểu Sản Phẩm, Y Tế, Tiếp Tân và nhiều hơn nữa.

Toàn thể nhân viên và học sinh GGUSD cùng nỗ lực đạt mục tiêu và chúng tôi tin chắc rằng những mục tiêu này đang mang lại hiệu quả lớn lao cho đời sống của học sinh. Nhưng chúng tôi không thể đơn độc làm điều này. GGUSD trân trọng sự hợp tác của các gia đình phụ huynh và cùng sát cánh với quý vị trong nỗ lực giúp con em chuẩn bị hành trang để thành công trên đường đời. Đó là Đường Hướng Garden Grove.



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Investing in Athletic Facilities

The Board of Education is proud of our award-winning athletic programs and has made significant financial investments to modernize and upgrade athletic facilities across our seven comprehensive high schools to benefit GGUSD athletes now and for generations to come.

In 2017, GGUSD opened the Michael A. Monsoor Memorial Athletic Stadium and in 2019, a second state-of-the-art athletic stadium was opened at Bolsa Grande High School. Both stadiums have hosted countless GGUSD victories and were funded by Measure P which received 76.3% approval from voters in 2016.

In addition to our wonderful stadiums which are used by all high schools, GGUSD installed permanent field lighting, LED scoreboards, and new baseball and softball dugouts at all schools. Tennis courts were resurfaced and fields were irrigated for optimal play.

As part of the seismic campus renovations at La Quinta and Pacifica High School, those campuses received brand new classroom buildings, cafeterias performing arts centers, as well as gymnasiums and CIF regulation swimming pools.

Finally, we begin the 2023-2024 school year with 3 new state-of-the-art all-weather synthetic turf track and fields at Los Amigos, Rancho Alamitos and Santiago High Schools. Over the summer, we invited local leaders, students, staff and families to ribbon cutting ceremonies to celebrate their new track and fields and the start of an exciting athletic season.

In GGUSD, we know that our athletic programs have a positive impact on students, shaping character skills like leadership, teamwork, time management and goal-setting. Our modernized athletic facilities enhance our campuses and have a positive impact on our entire school communities!



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Invirtiendo en las Instalaciones Deportivas

La Mesa Directiva de Educación está orgullosa de nuestros galardonados programas deportivos y ha llevado a cabo importantes inversiones financieras para modernizar y mejorar las instalaciones deportivas en nuestras siete escuelas secundarias integrales para beneficiar actualmente a los deportistas del GGUSD y a las futuras generaciones por venir.

En el año 2017, el GGUSD inauguró el Estadio Deportivo Conmemorativo Michael A. Monsoor y en el 2019, inauguró un segundo estadio deportivo moderno en la Escuela Secundaria Bolsa Grande. Ambos estadios han sido sede de innumerables victorias del GGUSD y fueron financiados por la Medida P, la cual recibió la aprobación del 76.3% de los votantes en el año 2016.

Además de nuestros maravillosos estadios los cuales son utilizado por todas las escuelas secundarias, el GGUSD instaló iluminación permanente en los campos de juego, marcadores LED y banquillos para béisbol y sóftbol en todas las escuelas. Las canchas de tenis fueron revestidas con pavimento y los campos de juego fueron irrigados para brindar un juego óptimo.

Como parte de las renovaciones antisísmicas en las escuelas secundarias La Quinta y Pacífica, esos planteles escolares recibieron nuevos edificios con salones de clases, cafeterías, centros de artes visuales y escénicas, así como gimnasios y piscinas reguladas por la Federación Interescolar de California (CIF).

Finalmente, comenzamos el año escolar 2023-2024 con 3 nuevas y modernas pistas sintéticas y campos de juego con césped artificial para todos los climas, en las escuelas secundarias Los Amigos, Rancho Alamitos y Santiago. Durante el verano, invitamos a líderes locales, alumnos, personal y familias a las ceremonias de corte de listón para celebrar sus nuevas pistas y campos de juego y el comienzo de una emocionante temporada deportiva.

En el GGUSD, sabemos que nuestros programas deportivos tienen un impacto positivo en los alumnos, dándole forma a las habilidades de carácter como el liderazgo, trabajo en equipo, administración del tiempo y establecimiento de metas. ¡Nuestras instalaciones deportivas modernizadas mejoran nuestros planteles escolares y tienen un impacto en todas nuestras comunidades escolares!

Đầu Tư Vào Các Cơ Sở Thể Thao

Hội Đồng Giáo Dục rất hãnh diện về các chương trình thể thao đạt nhiều giải thưởng của chúng ta và đã đầu tư khoản tài chính đáng kể để tân trang và nâng cấp các cơ sở thể thao cho bảy trường trung học phổ thông nhằm mang lại lợi ích cho các vận động viên GGUSD hiện nay và cho các thế hệ mai sau.

Vào năm 2017, GGUSD đã khai trương Sân Vận Động Thể Thao Tưởng Niệm Michael A. Monsoor và vào năm 2019, sân vận động thể thao hiện đại thứ hai đã được khai trương tại Trường Trung Học Cấp II Bolsa Grande. Cả hai sân vận động được tân trang nhờ vào sự tài trợ của Dự Luật P với 76.3% cử tri bầu thuận vào năm 2016 và là nơi đã diễn ra vô số chiến thắng cho GGUSD.

Ngoài các sân vận động tân tiến cho tất cả các trường trung học cấp II sử dụng, GGUSD còn lắp đặt các trụ đèn chiếu sáng, bảng điểm LED, dây ghế mới cho đội bóng chày và bóng mềm tại tất cả các trường trung học, tráng lại bề mặt sân quần vợt và gắn hệ thống tưới hiệu quả cho sân thể thao.

Trong phần dự án trùng tu hệ thống phòng bị địa chấn, Trường Trung Học Cấp II La Quinta và Pacifica đã có được các phòng học hoàn toàn mới, phòng ăn, sân khấu trình diễn, cũng như phòng thể dục và hồ bơi theo quy định CIF.

Cuối cùng, chúng ta khởi đầu niên học 2023-2024 với 3 sân cỏ nhân tạo mới, hiện đại và phù hợp với mọi thời tiết tại Trường Trung Học Cấp II Los Amigos, Rancho Alamitos và Santiago. Vào mùa hè qua, chúng tôi đã mời các viên chức địa phương, học sinh, nhân viên và gia đình đến dự lễ cắt băng khánh thành sân điền kinh mới và mừng sự khởi đầu của một mùa thể thao đầy hào hứng.

GGUSD hiểu rõ việc tham gia các chương trình thể thao tạo nguồn động lực tích cực đến học sinh, giúp các em rèn luyện kỹ năng huấn đạo, tinh thần cộng tác với nhóm, biết đặt mục tiêu và sử dụng thời gian hiệu quả. Các cơ sở thể thao hiện đại tạo sự nổi bật cho các trường của học khu, đồng thời mang lại kết quả tốt đẹp cho cả cộng đồng trường chúng ta.



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Superintendent Dr. Gabriela Mafi begins this issue with her message on the topic of GGUSD goals.

This is our 8th year publishing the GGUSD *School News*. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving. I am thankful for you, our readers, and your continued interest and support of public education.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 46. Our next issue is May 8.



Happy Halloween!

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Halloween Safety Tips

As Halloween approaches, it's soon to be one of the most magical times of the year. Children eagerly anticipate indulging in sugary treats while parents grapple with managing the candy frenzy. Fortunately, a few helpful tips and tricks can ensure a stress-free Halloween for both kids and parents.

Before heading out to trick-or-treat, eat a light meal or snack rather than going out on an empty stomach to prevent snacking on the candy during door-to-door visits. In addition, it's important to remind kids that they shouldn't eat any candy until their loot can be inspected later.

Inspect wrapped treats for any signs of tampering such as unusual appearance, discoloration, holes, or tears, and throw out anything that looks suspicious. If you have a food allergy, be sure to check labels on all treats, and do not consume any home-baked goods.

Eating large amounts of candy in one day won't harm one's health, but consuming sugar daily can lead to weight gain, high blood pressure, diabetes, or cardiovascular disease. According to the 2020-25 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, children ages 3-17 should have no more than 10% added sugars in their total diet.

After Halloween night, kids may find themselves with a treasure trove of candy. Parents can use this as an opportunity to teach portion control by limiting candy consumption following Halloween. Leftover sweets can be donated to local charities and soldiers overseas through donation drives.

It's important to remember that young children can choke on gum, peanuts, and hard candies so be sure to remove any from goodie bags.

Apart from the food, many children traveling in the dark pose safety concerns. Costumes should be light-colored and easy to see at night. Using flashlights and adding reflective or glow-in-the-dark tape to costumes and treat bags makes kids more visible at night.

Keep electronic devices tucked away. Walk, don't run, and make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street. Also, keep electronic devices put away when crossing the streets, make eye contact with drivers, and avoid staying out too late.

MemorialCare Medical Group Torrance wishes you a safe and spooktacular Halloween! For year-round family health needs, please contact us at (877) 696-3622.



Athena, Age 2



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Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent



Dr. Ramon Miramontes
Deputy
Superintendent
of Instructional
Programs

Times and technologies may change, but ensuring students feel a sense of connection at school is just as crucial as ever. Arguably, it's never been more important.

I'm talking specifically about being involved with clubs, sports, music and other activities that not only enhance personal growth but have also been shown to improve students' academic

performance and their well-being.

Research from the National Institutes of Health tells us that when students feel connected to their school, they are less likely to feel anxious, sad or have thoughts of harming themselves. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests these benefits are long term, leading to improved health outcomes into adulthood.

Now, let me introduce you to two OCDE programs that have a history of engaging students across Orange County: the Academic Decathlon and Pentathlon.

See **OC DEPT OF ED • Page 47**

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pacificmmc.org/distance-learning



Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

A Helicopter Parent

Q. I have been a helicopter parent for so long that my children, ages seven and nine, are extremely apprehensive of taking any risks in various activities or doing anything where they may get even slightly hurt or disappointed. What have I done and how do I correct it?

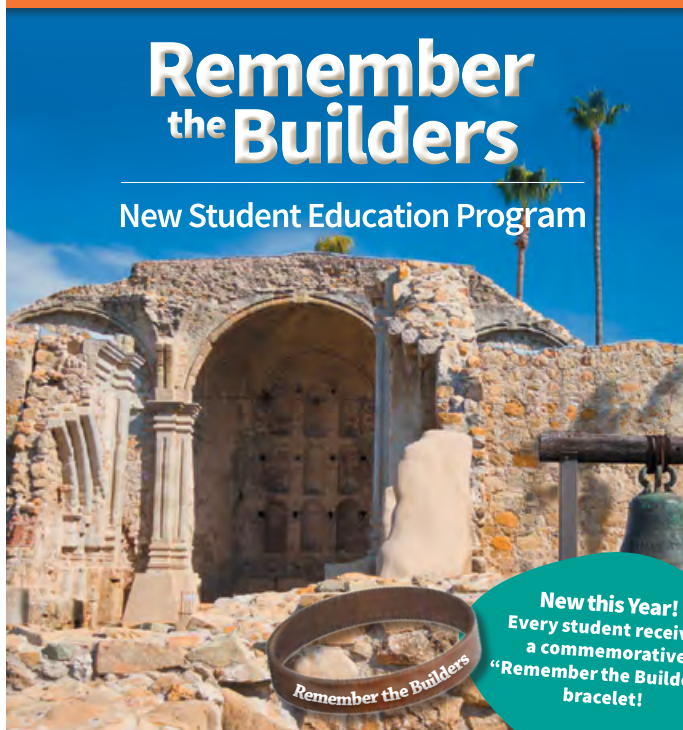
A. There have been overbearing and overprotective parents for years; don't beat yourself up too badly. It's easy for parents to go overboard when it comes to their kids. However, this can continue into college years and beyond, but it doesn't have to. Your parenting style and the way you view your children will need to change. You'll need to allow them to get used to the idea that they can actually try things on their own. Go ahead and sign them up for things that they are truly interested in and will most likely do well at. A few successes will build their self-confidence and they will perhaps want to do more things that are new and different. It's the mistakes and bumps in life that we all learn from that make us stronger individuals, better able to handle future situations. We have to be allowed to fail.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. www.ParentToParent.com

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Alamitos Intermediate School

12381 Dale St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6101 • alamitos.ggusd.us



Ivy Trac
Principal

Celebrating Student Success

In a heartwarming and inspiring ceremony, Alamitos Intermediate celebrated the exceptional accomplishments of its students during the Honor Roll and SBAC Awards Assembly in August. The event held on August 30th, was a testament to the dedication, hard work, and academic excellence displayed by the students in various categories, including their performance on the SBAC state exams, positive attendance records, Honor Roll recognition, and Principal's Honor Roll accolades. One of the highlights of the ceremony was the recognition of students who excelled in the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) state exams. These exams assess students' proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics, and Alamitos students showed remarkable proficiency, with many achieving advanced or proficient scores. Dr. Trac commended the students for their dedication to academic success and encouraged them to continue their pursuit of knowledge. One of the highest academic honors was reserved

for the students who earned a 3.0 GPA or higher and were on the Honor Roll or Principal's Honor Roll. These students received special recognition from the school for maintaining their grades and embodying the school's values of Purpose, Responsibility, and Excellence. Alamitos Intermediate eagerly anticipates what the future holds for these remarkable students and looks forward to witnessing their continued success.



Alamitos Intermediate hosted a special assembly to honor the academic accomplishments of its students.

Allen Elementary School

16200 Bushard St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/663-6228 • allen.ggusd.us



Sandi Ishi
Interim Principal

Theater Adventures

Allen Elementary is off and running with this year's musical - Frozen Kids! Allen is a Disney Musicals in Schools alumni, and this is our eighth production. This year, Allen will have two casts performing the show with a total of 80 performers from 3rd through 6th grade. In addition, twelve sixth graders will serve as student leaders and create our stage crew, sound, and lights teams. In February, all of our hard work will culminate into our musical, which every student at our school will have the opportunity to enjoy. Musical theater helps to meet our district's Goal 1, through application of literacy skills, visual and performing arts standards, and collaboration and communication skills. In addition, our program supports Goal 2 by providing opportunities for social-emotional wellness, as well as creating a

positive school culture that all students can share together. At Allen, our theater program brings excitement and joy of the musical arts to our entire school!



Allen Elementary School students are excited for the school's production of Disney's Frozen.

Anthony Elementary School

15320 Pickford St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6104 • anthony.ggusd.us



Tyleen Perez
Principal

Focusing on Friendship

The new year is off to a great start at Anthony Elementary School. Students and parents were eager to visit the newly remodeled Friendship Café, where students may go during recess to play games, puzzles and do art with their friends. At Anthony Elementary, we focus on social and emotional wellness, because we

believe children learn best when they feel safe and happy at school. In addition to social emotional wellness, we will also continue our focus on the high-quality academic instruction that Anthony is known for. At the heart and soul of our school is our amazing teachers and staff members who work together to ensure that all students are learning and making progress toward their academic goals. To meet the needs of our students, our entire teaching staff takes great pride in doing targeted intervention to provide extra instruction for those students needing learning support. With everything we have planned, it is going to be another successful year at Anthony School!



The Friendship Café includes a doll house which is popular among our youngest learners.

Barker Elementary School

12565 Springdale St., Garden Grove, CA 92845 • 714/663-6164 • barker.ggusd.us



Michelle Askew
Principal

Campus Beautification

Barker students and families returned in August to many campus improvements including our new shade structures on our TK/Kindergarten playground, an additional staff parking

lot, and a portable to serve as our teachers' lounge and staff preparation. Campus beautification projects included freshly painted murals on our handball courts that showcase our monthly character traits and the installation of new Dero bike racks. Our staff and community appreciate our focus in promoting district Goal #2, but most importantly our Barker Lions have a new sense of school pride with these campus improvements. We look forward to what will come this school year!



Students enjoy the school's freshly-painted handball courts with reminders about what it means to be a Barker Lion.

Bell *Intermediate School*

12345 Springdale St., Garden Grove, CA 92845 • 714/663-6466 • bell.ggusd.us



Stephanie Bartlett
Principal

Creating a Caring Culture

Establishing school-wide expectations at Bell is essential to our school culture and helps to set the tone in our classrooms, on our campus, and in the community. Roadrunners have clear expectations and are regularly acknowledged for what they do

well, earning points within the school's 5-Star system, when

they demonstrate our four student learning outcomes: Be Kind & Respectful, Ensure Safety, Lead Responsibly, & Learn Actively. Roadrunners earn individual and house points when participating in ASB activities that show Bell Pride. Students may use individual points to redeem prizes once a month at our PBIS store, and house points accumulate for a schoolwide competition! Our First Day of School was designed as an opportunity for our Roadrunners

to learn how Bell aligns schoolwide expectations with the values and experiences of our community, and with being a No Place for Hate campus. Bell followed up our strong and inclusive start with Hello Week on the fourth week of school. During this week, we focus on ensuring our campus is welcoming and inclusive by creating a culture of kindness and belonging with ALL classmates.



Student performers helped create a fun and festive start to the new school year.

Bolsa Grande *High School*

9401 Westminster Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6424 • www.bolsagrande.org



Tracy Conway
Principal

World Travelers

The World Language Department at Bolsa Grande High School is proud to offer Heritage and Regular Spanish and Vietnamese classes for all of our students. Our Vietnamese program is also involved with the Vietnamese Student Association and Pay it Forward clubs

on campus. Our Spanish program is involved with

Latinos Unidos and Spanish Honors Society. These clubs are focused on giving all students an opportunity to learn about different cultures.

Bolsa World Languages teachers believe in the power of traveling and the incredible learning experience it provides. It allows students to experience different cultures firsthand and make real life connections to what they have been learning in the classroom. Through

travel, students are able to get a deeper understanding and appreciation of the world and the people in it. In Spring of 2023, Bolsa students and staff journeyed to Europe. They experienced London's royal tradition at Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London, and took in life on its bustling streets. In Paris, they learned about the endless art at the Louvre and ascended the Eiffel Tower.



Bolsa Grande World Languages students visited historic sites and learned about cultural traditions during a trip to Europe.

Brookhurst *Elementary School*

9821 William Dalton Way, Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6556 • brookhurst.ggusd.us



**Nicole
Van Wilgen Moore**
Principal

Learning to S.W.I.M.

Brookhurst Elementary School kicked off the 2023-2024 school year with celebration and excitement. On the first day of school, students were greeted with “Welcome Back to School” signs and balloons from our Brookhurst PTA. Students were warmly welcomed by our Brookhurst teachers and staff throughout the campus. The strong start continued

as students participated in school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) rotations to learn what it means to S.W.I.M. as a Brookhurst Dolphin. Brookhurst teachers and staff explicitly taught how students can Show respect, Work hard, Include everyone, and Make responsible choices throughout the Brookhurst Campus.

At Brookhurst we continue to support our students in academic (goal 1) and personal (goal 2) skills throughout the year. Our students in fourth through sixth grades had the opportunity to develop both goals as they learned and participated in a student council election. Way to go Brookhurst Dolphins!



Brookhurst students strengthened and showcased their leadership skills in the school's Student Council Election.

Bryant *Arts Academy*

8371 Oranewood Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6451 • bryant.ggusd.us



**Kristine
Levenson**
Principal

Engaging in Art

All students at Bryant participate in art lessons throughout the school year with Art Masters Legacy. Instructors visit the site to teach the students about different types of artists and art, and then each class creates an art project by the featured artist. In August, our students learned about Lois Mailou Jones, a noted artist and educator.

Throughout her

career, Jones has championed the international artistic achievement of African-American art. She has also been an important role model for other African-American artists, particularly those involved with her design and watercolor courses at Howard University from 1930 to 1977.

We place a great value on art at Bryant. Art education fosters creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression, and art instruction helps enhance fine motor skills, spatial

awareness, and hand-eye coordination. Moreover, engaging with various art forms exposes children to different cultures, historical periods, and artistic styles, fostering cultural appreciation and empathy. By fostering creativity and self-confidence from an early age, art instruction in elementary school lays the foundation for a well-rounded education that prepares students for a future that values innovation, adaptability, and a deep appreciation for the beauty and diversity of the world.



Students at Bryant Elementary showcase their recent art project through the Art Masters Legacy program.

Carrillo *Elementary School*

15270 Bushard St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6230 • carrillo.ggusd.us



Mark Vosper
Principal

Learning to ROAR

Carrillo Elementary continues to strive towards excellence in both academics and student social and emotional wellness. In doing so, we are preparing our students for a life of success in college and beyond. Our commitment to Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) continues to yield remarkable results.

In our second year of implementing PBIS, Carrillo was recognized with a Silver Medal. We are proud of the work our wonderful teachers have put into creating a comprehensive and inclusive program. Our students know what it means to authentically ROAR (Respect each other at school, take Ownership in all that you do, have a great Attitude, and understand your Responsibility for your actions). Carrillo students are excited to spend their hard-earned Carrillo Cash at our ROAR Store. With PBIS as our guiding principle, Carrillo Elementary is cultivating a culture of excellence, kindness, and success. Together, we're building a brighter future for our students, one positive interaction at a time.



Students look forward to spending Carrillo Cash in the school's ROAR Store.

Carver *Early Childhood Education Center*

11150 Santa Rosalia St., Stanton, CA 90680 • 714/663-6437 • carver.ggusd.us



Brian Ball
Principal

Supporting our Youngest Learners

The Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) at Carver, Heritage, and Skylark is in our second year of offering a full day preschool program to support our students with unique needs. In addition to our continued focus on developing early academic foundational skills and early scholarly habits (with our

emphasis on school readiness skills), this year all of our students are benefitting from weekly Group Occupational Therapy, Small Group Push-in Speech Services, Group Physical Therapy, Exploratory Play, and Music taught by our wonderful GGUSD music teachers. Additionally, our first-ever Carver Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is in full swing; we successfully completed our first Carver ECEC PTA Membership Drive and we will be holding PTA Elections in the coming weeks. We are very excited for all of the fun activities and support our PTA will be bringing to our school, families, and students! What an amazing start to our 2023-24 School Year!



Carver students practice categorizing colors.

Clinton Corner *Family Campus*

13581 Clinton St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6298 • cfc.ggusd.us



Emma Druitt
Principal

Supporting Little Learners

The preschool program has been off to a very busy start to the school year! In addition to opening all of our preschool classes as 3 year old classrooms, we have begun the very first year of our Spanish Dual Immersion Program

at Russell Elementary! The class is being taught following a 90/10 model where 90% of the class is taught in Spanish and 10% in English. There are a variety of languages represented among students in the classroom. As students settle in, they are quickly becoming comfortable with the language demands and routines. These students will continue in a Spanish Dual Immersion program when they leave preschool as they are guaranteed a spot at the Russell Elementary Dual Immersion program. We are so excited to see what our littlest learners can do!



GGUSD now offers preschool students the opportunity to attend a Spanish Immersion Preschool Program at the district's Russell campus.

Clinton *Elementary School*

13641 Clinton St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6146 • clinton.ggusd.us



Beth Cusimano
Principal

Setting and Achieving Goals

Clinton teachers are doing an outstanding job helping students personalize GGUSD's Strategic Plan. This year, one of our AVID strategies includes students setting personal goals. Teachers

are beginning the year by teaching or revisiting our three district goals: Academic Skills, Personal Skills, and Lifelong Success, as well as making the goals accessible to individual grade levels from TK through sixth grade. Each grade level team will be helping students set developmentally appropriate goals. Additionally, teachers will be collaborating vertically to add layers at every grade level and incorporate

goal setting into our classroom learning and routines. We will continue to revisit district and personal goals with students throughout the school year.



Clinton fifth grade students have selected, written and shared both short and long-term goals with the guidance of their teachers.

Cook Elementary School

9802 Woodbury Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6251 • cook.ggusd.us



Sherry Sanborn
Principal

Diversity, Inclusion and Allyship

Cook Elementary School is thrilled to mark its fourth year as a proud “No Place for Hate” school for the 2023-24 academic year.

Partnering with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), we’ve been on an incredible journey of promoting diversity, inclusion, and allyship within our school community. Our

commitment to creating a welcoming and accepting school environment has never been stronger. Over the past four years, we’ve used rich children’s literature as a springboard to celebrate the unique backgrounds and perspectives of our students, parents, and staff. We have stood together against discrimination and bullying, emphasizing the importance of being allies for one another. As we embark on this new school year, our dedication to these core values remains unwavering. Together, we will continue to foster an atmosphere where every child can thrive in

a place that respects and values their individuality. Cook Elementary School is a place where diversity is celebrated, inclusion is practiced, and allyship is the heartbeat of our community. Here’s to another year of growth, learning, and unity for our Cook Lions.



Cook Lions proudly display the school’s “No Place for Hate” banner which represents the school’s commitment to fostering a climate where all students are welcome and celebrated.

Crosby Elementary School

12181 West St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6346 • crosby.ggusd.us



Dianna Rangel
Principal

Community Partnerships Enhance Learning

Crosby Elementary has partnered with Art Masters and United Way. Art Masters aims at fostering a love for the arts and encourages self-expression. Students learn about artists like Van Gogh, Picasso, Monet, just to name a few; then create an art

project using a technique or medium of that artist.

Crosby Elementary has also partnered with United Way to bring guest readers from Orange County businesses to participate in a reading event called Jumpstart Read for the Record Day in October. The themes of familial relationships, food, celebrations, and connecting with loved ones over long distances will be sure to inspire children and families all year long! The guest readers will provide books for each student to take home and enjoy! These experiences will help develop a love of the arts!



Students at Crosby Elementary School enjoy a new art program that teaches students about the techniques of various famous artists.

Doig Intermediate School

12752 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6241 • doig.ggusd.us



Juan Alvarez
Principal

Committed to Academic Growth

This school year began with our staff feeling invigorated with our students' scores on the state's Smarter Balanced Assessment or SBAC exam. Our students had tremendous growth in Math and English which is a testament to the work being done by our teachers. In addition to the SBAC, our students also excelled on the California Science Test (CAST) which saw an increase from the previous school year. As a school, Doig continues to provide opportunities to support our students with their mental health by offering school counseling and conflict resolution through our partnership with Project Kinship. In addition to our mental health supports, our school continues to embed AVID strategies school-wide to help students in developing the skills necessary to handle rigorous academic school work that will prepare them for high school. We take great pride in our commitment with the community we serve and the students who attend our campus every single day.



Mrs. Kossler supports students as they work on text annotation, an important scholarly habit for academic success.

Eisenhower Elementary School

13221 Lilly St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6401 • eisenhower.ggusd.us



Chris Ash
Principal

Our Focus on Goal 2

Eisenhower welcomed support dogs Nellie, Heart, and Misha partnered with our Garden Grove Police School Resource Officers Link, Zmija and Julienne. Our students and staff had opportunities to meet and learn more about their important work. Most importantly, students had the opportunity to pet and hug Nellie, Heart, and Misha. The dogs have gone through specialized training to be able to provide socio-emotional support for students dealing with anxiety, students experiencing heightened emotions or behavior, and other instances of trauma or tragedy when students need additional social-emotional support. At Eisenhower, we believe children learn best when they feel safe and happy at school. Our students' well-being is supported with help from various programs provided by our dedicated staff and parent volunteers such as ASPIRE counselors, our school Wellness Center, Boys and Girls Club, Parents in Action, No Place for Hate, and OC GRIP Parent Greeters. We will also continue our focus on the high quality academic

instruction with our teachers who are lifelong learners preparing our students for the future. To stay up to date on everything happening at Eisenhower, follow us on Instagram and Facebook @eisenhowerggusd.



Eisenhower Elementary School students enjoy the opportunity to pet and hug our School Resource Officer support dogs Nellie, Misha and Heart.

Enders *Elementary School*

12302 Springdale St., Garden Grove, CA 92845 • 714/663-6205 • enders.ggusd.us



Michelle Rushall
Principal

Celebrating Our Scholars

The 2023-2024 school year started off with Enders' schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention Systems being implemented throughout the school and classrooms.

Students are working hard to earn Enders' PRIDE slips by showing a

Positive Attitude, Respect and Responsibility, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence. Selected students who show Enders' PRIDE are awarded at our monthly and quarterly awards ceremonies. The Enders' garden is once again up and running! Under the direction and hard work of community members Cindy Henshaw and Tina Coover the garden is full of watermelons, tomatoes, and pumpkins. Mrs. Henshaw has



Students enjoy learning about nature and enjoying the fruit of their work in the school's garden.

started giving gardening classes where students are invited to help in the garden and sample some of the fruits and vegetables. The school is looking forward to organizing a Farmer's Market as well as many other fun activities that bring teaching and learning to life.

Evans *Elementary School*

12281 Nelson St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6558 • evans.ggusd.us



Adam Bernstein
Principal

Warm and Welcoming

We are very proud that Evans Elementary School has just been designated an official "No Place for Hate" school by the Anti-Defamation League. "No Place for Hate" is a program where students learn about the important values of acceptance, tolerance, and respect for others. Students learn

to appreciate people from different ethnicities, religions, and backgrounds. In order to earn the status to be an official "No Place for Hate" school, last year students at Evans participated in three schoolwide activities that promoted the values of the program. The first was the creation of an Eagle Poster that all students signed. The second activity involved the principal reading and discussing the book "Oddbird" to students in their classrooms. The final activity was our fabulous Cinco de Mayo BBQ. We look forward to continuing to teach Evans students about the importance of diversity and acceptance during the 2023-24 school year.



Evans Elementary School students join the principal in celebration of earning the designation as a No Place for Hate School.

Excelsior *Elementary School*

10421 Woodbury Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6106 • excelsior.ggusd.us



Dr. Jennifer Carter
Principal

Promoting Wellness

Excelsior students, staff, and parents are excited for the new school year. This year we are fortunate to have the ASPIRE social work program here four days per week. Our ASPIRE team leads lessons in social emotional

learning, promotes positivity and meets with

students for counseling. The ASPIRE team has created a wonderful Wellness Room where students can come at recess to play games, do art projects, and talk with the ASPIRE team. The students enjoy visiting the Wellness Room. We started the year off with a Wellness Week to support the students in making new friends and being kind to

one another. The Garden Grove Police Department also supports wellness in GGUSD with their Youth Support Canine Foundation. We had a special visit from one of our School Resource Officers, Adam Zmija and Heart, one of the adorable support canines. The second grade students loved having Heart and Officer Zmija visit their classroom.



Second grade students are all smiles thanks to a visit from School Resource Officer Adam Zmija and support canine Heart.

Faylane *Elementary School*

11731 Morrie Ln., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6253 • faylane.ggusd.us



Mike Ingalls
Principal

Creating Opportunities for All

Faylane Elementary School welcomed its Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students to school with a fun Kindergarten Orientation and Signing Day Event!

This was such a fun way to commemorate this milestone moment as students begin their kindergarten year. The school year is off to a great start as we provide Extended Learning Opportunities focused on strengthening students' reading skills. Faylane scholars are engaged in enriching learning as teachers focus on equipping all students with the academic and personal skills for success. Our PTA has done a fantastic job hosting special events for families including Movie Night, a Clothing Drive, and our upcoming Trunk or Treat.



Faylane welcomes transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students to school with a fun Signing Day Event.

Fitz Intermediate Language Academy

4600 W. McFadden Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92704 • 714/663-6351 • fitz.ggusd.us



Louie Gomez
Principal

Teacher Spotlight

Welcome back Fitz Falcons! We are excited to begin the 2023-2024 school year. Fitz

Intermediate Language Academy is proud to start the year by recognizing Nora Hernandez.

Ms. Hernandez is our wonderful choir teacher who was honored by the

CMA Foundation as a 2023 Music Teacher of Excellence. Ms. Hernandez recently traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, where she received her award, along with 29 other honorees. Fitz is so grateful to have a music teacher who shows extreme dedication to her students and allows them to develop their passion for music. She takes the time to enrich them musically and develop them as kind and generous people. She does this with her caring heart, endless energy, and contagious smile. We are lucky to have Ms. Hernandez as one of

our dedicated staff members and look forward to hearing great things from her students throughout the school year. Congratulations Ms. Hernandez!



Congratulations to Fitz Intermediate Language Academy Choir Teacher Nora Hernandez who was one of 30 teachers from across the nation to be named a 2023 Music Teacher of Excellence by the CMA Foundation.

Garden Grove High School

11271 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6115 • www.gghs.us



Mary Jane Hibbard
Principal

Extended Learning Opportunities Abound

GGHS Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) programs play a crucial role in supporting our students in all three GGUSD goals. Before and after school

Open Tutoring sessions are designed to provide opportunities for students to work independently, within groups, or with faculty tutors,

to support all subjects. In addition to subject specific support, scholarly habits and writing skills programs provide support not only in classwork but life skills that go beyond the classroom. For students who have taken on the additional rigor of Advanced Placement courses, GGHS offers a range of added supports. Tutoring is staffed with several AP teachers, and most AP classes have ELO support sessions to further assist students.

Social-Emotional Learning is another important aspect of GGHS ELO programs. SEL ELOs equip students with

self-awareness, empathy, and conflict resolution. SEL promotes emotional well-being and enhances interpersonal relationships. These academic, social-emotional, and life skills intervention programs collectively empower students to thrive academically and personally, helping to set them on a path towards a bright future beyond GGHS.



A packed classroom of sophomores attends an AP World History ELO with GGHS teacher Mr. Lunow.

Garden Park *Elementary School*

6562 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove, CA, 92845 • 714/663-6074 • gardenpark.ggusd.us



Jaemie Johnson
Principal

A Pledge for Kindness

Students in grades three through six at Garden Park took part in the national Kind Campaign initiative, presented by the organization's founders, Lauren and Molly. This assembly kicked off a month-long antibullying focus, which serves to help students identify their own responsibility in having empathy for others. Students learned how to respectfully apologize and mend broken friendships. In addition, students learned about how to be an upstander and stick up for others when they are being bullied, and learned ways to process their feelings and ask for help if someone has been unkind to them. Students developed individual kind pledges and signed a school poster vowing to unite in kindness. We are thankful to our ASPIRE counseling staff and school psychologist who made this opportunity possible for our scholars, and who will continue to present monthly classroom lessons to support social-emotional wellbeing as part of our GGUSD Strategic Plan Goal 2.



Garden Park students make a commitment to kindness as part of the school's antibullying focus.

Gilbert *Elementary School*

9551 Orangewood Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6318 • gilbert.ggusd.us



George Martinez
Principal

Criss-Cross Apple Sauce

Gilbert

Elementary School welcomed the fall season with an apple sauce tasting competition! Gilbert students in our special education classes participated in a life skills cooking lesson and then hosted a lively tasting contest. Gilbert staff were able to vote for the best apple sauce creation based on taste, texture and overall yumminess. The winning sauce was described by Assistant Principal Tiann Parker as "It tasted like a crisp fall day!" Judges and students had a wonderful time welcoming the new season. We can't wait until the next cook off!



Students at Gilbert Elementary School participated in hands-on learning by making their own applesauce.

Hare High School

12012 Magnolia St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6508 • hhs.ggusd.us



Lydia Machado
Principal

A Space for Wellness

After a year of planning, construction, design and decorating, the new Hare High School Well Space was opened for full student and staff use this fall. We are both excited and proud to see this vision realized on our campus, providing a safe and calming space for students in alignment with district Goal 2B, promoting socio-emotional well-being. In collaboration with our partners, from Orange County Department of Education and Children's Hospital Orange County and a focus group of Hare High School students, the space was designed to reflect students' personal style interests while being filled with research-based activities to help students practice self-regulation and calming techniques. The space was completed in late spring just before the school year ended and has officially opened for student use this fall. All students were given a tour of the space in small groups during a special schedule to ensure students knew the Well Space location

on campus and how to access the space. It has been a pleasure to see many students utilize the new space in our first two months of school!



Hare High School students report that the new Well Space helps them to feel calm and relaxed when they need a space to de-stress.

Hazard Elementary School

4218 W. Hazard Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92703 • 714/663-6403 • hazard.ggusd.us



Olivia Hufnagel
Principal

Soaring to New Heights

As Eagles, we don't just fly... We SOAR! Congratulations to our hard-working Hazard team for implementing effective strategies that highlight our core values: Strive for Academic Excellence, Overcome Challenges, Accept and Care for Others, and Reach all goals! Hazard Eagles know that building character and academic competence leads to great confidence in securing future success! Recently, our Superintendent, Dr. Mafi, highlighted our College & Career Mentoring Program with an empowering assembly for our sixth grade scholars! At Hazard, ALL scholars know that a college bound focus begins with an AVID-attitude that promotes goal setting and grit to equal growth! Our scholars will soar to new heights this year by continuing to build community through engagement in special events like our Mentor-Mentee program, Career Day, and Code Campus to hone academic rigor, innovation, effective communication, and peer-to-peer mentoring. Our STEAM

focus will introduce digital art this year, along with Lego Robotics, Minecraft Robotics, and Maker Engineering. In partnership with our Boys & Girls Club leaders, we will continue to celebrate diversity with performances that represent various countries from around the world at our annual cultural festival. Honing our scholars' academic skills alongside their personal skills is what elevates every student's experience at Hazard. Eagles always rise to the challenge of another adventure-filled school year!



R. F. Hazard TK-6 PBIS Ambassadors Celebrate Platinum level recognition for PBIS Implementation. Go Eagles!

Heritage Computer Science Immersion Academy

426 S. Andres Pl., Santa Ana, CA 92704 • 714/663-6108 • heritage.ggusd.us



Ryan Loberger
Principal

A Great Place to Learn

In September, Heritage was recognized as a No Place for Hate School by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). During the monthly Flag Assembly, representatives from ADL presented Heritage with a banner celebrating efforts to provide activities and

instruction to build an inclusive school community. Activity highlights from last year included Hispanic Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Week, a Lion Dance for Lunar New Year, Black History Month, and Lunch with a Loved One. These are a few of the activities that make Heritage a great place to learn for everyone. In addition to No Place for Hate, Heritage also has been certified by the AVID program,

California Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) as a Platinum School, OC GRIP, and continues to provide instruction in computer sciences for all students in TK through 6th Grade. We are proud of the programs and support we are able to provide to our students!



Students and staff celebrate recognition as a No Place for Hate School.

Hill Elementary School

9681 11th St., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6561 • hill.ggusd.us



Toby Vares
Principal

Numerous Opportunities to Grow

Welcome back to the 2023-2024 school year! Our Hill students and staff have been busy at work by making learning a priority. Hill parents have supported their children and teachers by attending Back to School Night and

joining our thriving PTA. The Hill PTA has been arranging and preparing for so many exciting events this year! Teachers and staff have planned numerous opportunities for before and after school intervention and enrichment programs. We are proud to offer classes in language arts and math along with opportunities to grow and extend learning through cinematography, robotics, and the Aladdin Disney Musical. Our

cinematography program allows students to create and deliver news stories, learn about video editing, and produce and film weekly school news updates. Be sure to check out our Hill Hounds News channel for exciting news stories!



Hill students learn video editing and production skills and film weekly school news updates.

Irvine Intermediate School

10552 W. Hazard Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6551 • irvine.ggusd.us



Holly Jefferson
Principal

Soaring Together

Irvine

Intermediate School teachers and staff continue to focus on supporting students' academic growth as well as their social-emotional well-being.

This year, the school launched "The Kettle Connection Social Club," an engaging and inclusive club that brings together our special education students and general education students during lunchtime to promote friendship, understanding, and enjoyment. The club creates an inclusive environment where students from different backgrounds can interact, play games, and build meaningful connections. It is awesome to see our Hawks SOARING together.



Students in the Kettle Connection Social Club play games together during lunch.

Jordan Intermediate School

9821 Woodbury Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6124 • jordan.ggusd.us



Nick Clark
Principal

Supporting Each Other

Jordan Intermediate School began the year off strong with a focus on GGUSD Goal 2: Personal Skills including equipping students to contribute to a positive school climate and culture. All seventh graders worked with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to learn about the power of words and

their impact on each other. Our presenters, along with our students also developed ways to be an "up-stander" and not a "bystander" when it comes to supporting each other at Jordan. At Jordan, our values are Respect, Responsibility and Kindness; and this workshop provided students with practical skills in all three of these areas.



Students start the year off learning about how to support each other with respect, responsibility and kindness.

Jordan Adult Transition Program

9915 Woodbury Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92844 714/663-6486 • jordanatp.ggusd.us



Joell Sparks
Principal

Supporting Lifelong Success

The students and staff at Jordan Adult Transition Program are having a great start to the school year. We are continuing to focus on our district goals as we build upon preparing students for lifelong success. Each week, students work with their peers and staff to navigate and learn about their community, resources and environment. During Back to School Night, parents and students met with a variety of community members which included Regional Center and day programs to build upon their knowledge of supports and options. As we continue to increase our relationships within the community, we also have community members visit our school site. In September, we welcomed Nellie, Rutter and Shelby who are support dogs along with the police officers to learn more about how they provide support to our community members. We look forward to a great year!



Students enjoy hearing about the work of School Resource Officer Link and his support dog Nellie.

La Quinta High School

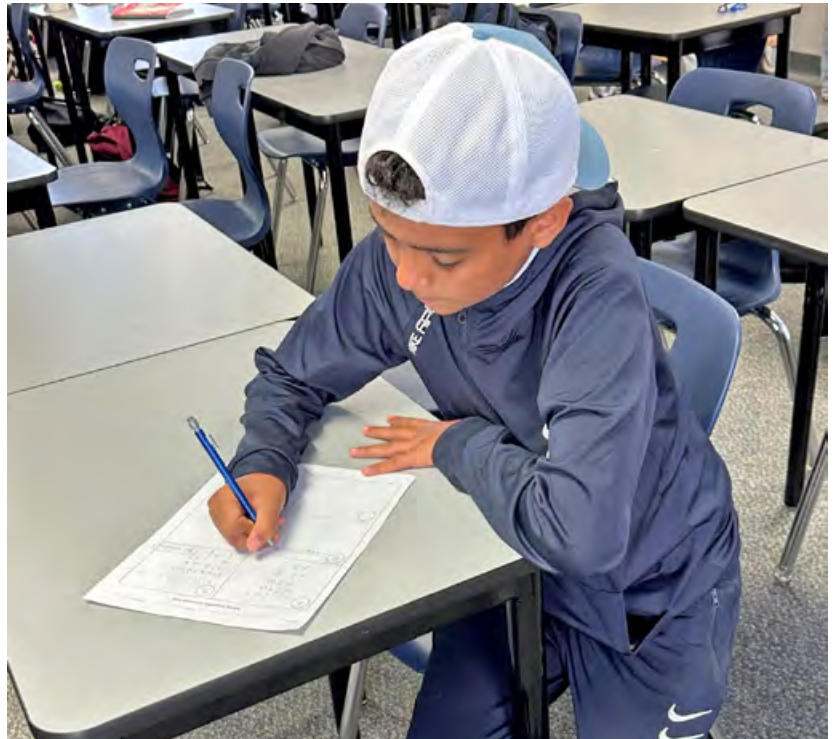
10372 McFadden Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6315 • www.laquintahs.org



Amy Avina
Principal

Focusing on Freshmen

Our Aztec students are off to a strong start this year, and nowhere are we more invested this fall than with our incoming freshmen students. Since we know that success in the 9th grade largely determines high school success overall, one of our top priorities this year is to increase the achievement of all freshmen. La Quinta staff members are working closely with our freshmen to assess their academic progress and to support their learning gaps early. We also want our freshmen to be connected to school through clubs, sports, the arts, and activities. A team of LQ educators meets regularly to study student trends and make adjustments in our systems that may lead to greater success for all. All of the high schools in GGUSD meet regularly to share ideas and take research-based, actionable steps towards a more effective system for our students.



A freshman at La Quinta High School checks his steps on an algebraic expression.

Lake Intermediate School

10801 Orangewood Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6506 • lake.ggusd.us



Denise Kirkman
Principal

Celebrating No Place for Hate Status

In September, Lake Intermediate School received a banner from the Anti-Defamation League recognizing the school as a No Place for Hate School. The banner was presented by ADL representative Susie Phillips and School Resource Officer

Julienne from the Garden Grove Police Department.

Lake scholars received

this honor for following the Lake Dragon Code of Conduct. Lake Dragons breathe F.I.R.E. by demonstrating being Focused, showing Integrity, being Respectful, and exhibiting Excellence. Lake scholars celebrated by receiving prizes, enjoying a special lunch provided by GGUSD Food Services Department and being a part of the banner ceremony. The banner was received by Lake's PBIS team members, Ms. Veronica Garcia and Mrs. Stephanie Meyers. Students who attended commented that the friendly staff as well as the good decision making

skills of students help contribute to the school's warm and welcoming climate. Lake Intermediate School will continue to foster a community who cultivates a welcoming and positive culture where students and staff are motivated to learn and excel by supporting GGUSD Goal 2 through our PBIS, Project Kinship, and ASPIRE counseling programs.



Lake students and staff celebrate the school's distinction as a No Place for Hate School.

Lawrence Elementary School

12521 Monroe St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6255 • lawrence.ggusd.us



Julie Kawai
Principal

Bringing Students Together

This fall, we were able to hold our first Ability Awareness Day! Our students participated in activities that celebrate and bring awareness to the different ways we learn and grow. Our Inclusion Team hosted activities at three different stations including an AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication)

Station, a station that brings awareness to visual impairments, and an activity that brings awareness to Dyslexia. At our AAC Station, our Speech and Language Pathologists shared different ways to communicate. Some of these methods included a button that records a voice and can replay it, using a tablet to press buttons to express ideas, or touching pictures to communicate. Our Adaptive Physical Education Teacher led a station where one student was able to guide a student with simulated visual impairment through a maze. Our School Psychologist created a station that brings awareness to Dyslexia by having students trace

a figure by looking only at a mirror. Our students did a wonderful job of participating and learning while our team fostered togetherness and understanding through our Ability Awareness Day!



Students at Lawrence Elementary participate in an activity bringing awareness to different methods of communication

Lincoln Adult Education Center

11262 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove CA 92843 • 714/663-6291 • ae.ggusd.us



M'Liss Patterson
Principal

Lifelong Learning

The Garden Grove Adult Education (GGAE) program offers a wide variety of FREE classes for anyone 18 years or older. We have EXCITING new Medical Pathway courses starting soon! Currently we offer English classes, high school diploma and

equivalency, HVAC, Automotive, and Computer Classes. Visit our website: ae.ggusd.us to register and learn more about our programs. Students have the option to attend class in person or through Zoom from anywhere. Open enrollment continues through the semester for most classes. #yourfutureisbrightatggae



The GGAE Staff is here to support you on your pathway to your learning goals.

Los Amigos High School

16566 Newhope St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/663-6288 • www.losamigoshs.com



Todd Nirk
Principal

Athletic Spotlight

After completion of its new \$8 million athletic facility, Los Amigos High School played its first ever onsite varsity football game and they finished it off in style with a last second 28-27 win over San Bernardino High School. The Lobos victory was earned in dramatic fashion as they scored their last touchdown with 19 seconds left and rolled the dice going for a two-point conversion. The team was rewarded when quarterback Chris Flores powered his way to pull out the victory. But just getting the game off the ground was a victory in itself. The athletic facility, complete with a nine-lane synthetic track and a turf field with full LED lighting, was just completed at the start of August. There were a lot of details to work out in order to adequately host a varsity game and in the end it was a special occasion for the students, athletes, and the community!



Los Amigos High School won its first varsity football game played on the school's new state-of-the-art track and field!

Mark Twain *Special Education Center*

11802 Loara St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6050 • marktwain.ggusd.us



Supporting Student Growth

At Mark Twain School we welcomed our students back for another great year. This school year we are continuing to focus on our

Joell Sparks
Principal

district goals as we strive to increase student engagement, communication, social skills and independence. Growth in these areas is critical and supported within the classroom, on campus and in our community. We look forward to supporting, witnessing and recognizing student growth throughout this school year.



The Special Education Center at Mark Twain celebrates the success and growth of its students.

Marshall *Elementary School*

15791 Bushard Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6528 • marshall.ggusd.us



An Act of Compassion

In a remarkable display of leadership and compassion, the students at Marshall Elementary kicked off the school year with a fundraising campaign to support the victims of the devastating fires that ravaged through Maui. The students rallied together selling “Lollipops

for Lahaina” and recently received a thank you letter from the Maui Schools Foundation. This fundraising initiative is a shining example of the positive impact Marshall Elementary students make when they come together for a common cause. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Marshall Elementary organized a special assembly showcasing the artistry and cultural significance of Folklorico dance. The event fostered a deeper understanding and appreciation for the diverse Hispanic heritage that enriches the Marshall community.

Gurprit Dhillon
Principal

Lastly, we kicked off the school year with a book fair that our parent volunteers enthusiastically staffed. They assisted students in finding books that piqued their interests and helped to encourage the love for reading.



Students raised \$300 to donate to schools in Maui impacted by the recent fires.

McGarvin *Intermediate School*

9802 Bishop Pl., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6218 • mcgarvin.ggusd.us



Bill Gates
Principal

Top PBIS Award Winner

Recently, Sarah McGarvin Intermediate School was recognized for the second year in a row as a California PBIS Platinum award recipient. This is the highest honor bestowed upon PBIS schools for their commitment to

implementing PBIS with fidelity in order to foster a school community where student success, teaching, and learning thrive. This is an outstanding achievement that recognizes the hard work and efforts of our school staff, students, and families. In true McGarvin fashion, we began this school year committed to educating and preparing our students for another successful year, focused on our “W.I.S.E” behavior attributes, in conjunction with developing their academic and personal skills so that they achieve success now, and in the future. Go Owls!



McGarvin students engage in indoor and outdoor learning around the school's successful PBIS program.

Mitchell *Elementary School*

13451 Taft Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6131 • mitchell.ggusd.us



Carrie Bostick
Principal

Mitchell Opens Brand New Wellness Space!

The Mitchell ASPIRE team of a School Social Worker and a Mental Health Specialist, along with a team of Mitchell staff members, worked hard over the summer and into August creating a brand new Wellness Space for students. The new space

includes different zones that can be utilized by students when receiving emotional support from the ASPIRE team. There are areas for arts and crafts, reading, and emotional regulation, including a sequin sensory wall that helps students calm down and relax as they move their hand over the sequins, changing the color from blue to silver. The Wellness Space serves as a calm environment for individual counseling and small group support. In September, students were welcomed to the brand new Wellness Space and it was opened at recess for Recess Club, where students practice mindfulness and develop social skills all the while having a great time!



Students enjoy a variety of calming and mindfulness activities in the school's new Well Space.

Morningside *Elementary School*

10521 Morningside Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6328 • morningside.ggusd.us



Nathan Bellamy
Principal

Rising Leaders

Morningside Elementary is off and running for the 2023-2024 school year and our first order of business is electing our new Student Council. Twelve of our bravest students prepared speeches and then stood in front of their classmates and gave their speeches on why they should be

elected to office. Each of our students did a wonderful job overcoming anxiety to deliver their speeches in front of so many students. Our students sat down with their teachers to write and edit their speeches with great care. Our candidates received a warm welcome and tremendous applause. In the end though, only four could be chosen and we look forward to our new Student Council leading our school to a wonderful year!



Twelve students ran for election to serve on the school's Student Council.

Monroe *Elementary Dual Language Academy*

16225 Newhope St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/663-6264 • monroe.ggusd.us



César Loya
Principal

Engaged Scholars and Families

It has been an incredible first couple months of school at Monroe. Our “Vecindad de MELA” has grown tremendously over the past few years. It is amazing to think that our first cohort of bilingual and biliterate scholars will soon be ready to move on to high school. We are very fortunate to have a strong parent community.

scholars will learn important organization, note-taking, and collaboration skills necessary to be successful in school and beyond. We are looking forward to an amazing school year! If you are interested in having your child join our exceptional Spanish Immersion program for Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, please call our office. Our mandatory enrollment orientations begin in December.

Our PTA has organized some incredible events and experiences for our scholars – including field trips for all grade levels, Movie Night, Meet The Masters, Walk To School Day, amongst others. Additionally, we will be organizing a Día de los Muertos altar, Trunk or Treat, Holiday Kermes, our renowned International Day Festival and much more. This year, our wonderful team of teachers will be incorporating critical AVID strategies and structures into our everyday practice and expectations. All of our scholars will be immersed in a college-going environment, including visiting local community colleges and universities. Starting in third grade, our



Students at Monroe Elementary enjoy a variety of field trips throughout the year.

Murdy Elementary School

14851 Donegal Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6405 • murdy.ggusd.us



Dr. Michele Luong
Principal

United for School Goals

Murdy Elementary launched our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program this year with a school-wide assembly. The purpose of PBIS is to establish positive student culture and individualized behavior support necessary to create a safe and effective learning environment for all students. Murdy's PBIS program is called UNITE: Utmost Respect, Never Give Up, Integrity, Think and Act Responsibly, and Embrace Safety. The focus during the months of August and September have been "Utmost Respect" and students have been working hard on showing utmost respect to their classmates, teachers, staff, and school. Students earn UNITE tickets when they show utmost respect or any of the other expected positive behaviors. The UNITE tickets can be used at the UNITE store for prizes and rewards at the end of each trimester. PBIS has allowed students to learn behavior expectations while having fun. Mustangs UNITE!



Murdy Elementary School's Thao To talks to students about the school's PBIS goals.

Newhope Elementary School

4419 W. Regent Dr., Santa Ana, CA 92704 • 714/663-6581 • newhope.ggusd.us



Tanya Avina
Principal

Supporting the Whole Child and Community

Newhope Elementary teachers are off to a great start this school year by implementing AVID Elementary schoolwide to support scholarly habits and college and career readiness for all students. Newhope is proud to ensure that all students are learning how to become more organized, improve their academic speaking and collaboration skills in all content areas, develop their writing skills, and set personal goals. Newhope has also opened a new Wellness Center where students can participate in social-emotional activities that help support mental health. The Wellness Center is designed with the intent to provide all students with a comforting environment where he/she can learn to manage their feelings and practice coping skills. Our ASPIRE team of counselors manages the Wellness Center weekly with small groups and individual therapy. During morning recess, students from every class will have a chance to participate in the wellness space. We are thankful for such a supportive community of parents and business partners who donate their time and generosity to Newhope's initiative as a Community School. Our

school PTO helps sponsor field trips, school assemblies, student incentives for positive behavior, treats for meeting academic goals, activities, and tools to address students' needs, and so much more. With the support of our partners like OC GRIP, we provide more parent education and engagement here at Newhope to support the whole child.



Students participate in "lines of communication" to collaborate on a writing assignment.

Northcutt *Elementary School*

11303 Sandstone St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/663-6537 • northcutt.ggusd.us



Brian Ladd
Principal

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

At Northcutt, the 2023-2024 school year is off to a wonderful, busy start with many community-building events! Northcutt ensures an inclusive, multicultural experience for our scholars and community. Northcutt students and families celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month and Mexican Independence Day at our Friday Flag assembly with some beautiful mariachi

music. Our Bulldog community was treated with traditional mariachi music accompanied by engaging origin stories for each song performed. Parents, students and staff listened attentively, danced, or clapped along to the traditional mariachi music celebrating the Hispanic cultural heritage. In addition, Northcutt sixth graders presented an art project to the school representing important and historic Hispanic figures throughout history. Throughout the year, Northcutt will continue to celebrate and engage scholars through multicultural education and experiences.



Northcutt Elementary School hosted a beautiful assembly to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and Mexican Independence Day.

Pacifica *High School*

6851 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 • 714/663-6515 • www.pacificamariners.com



Steve Osborne
Principal

Exciting Start for Flag Football

This year the CIF voted to add Girls' Flag Football as a sanctioned sport. Most high schools across California are waiting a year to see how the first year works out. However, based on incredible interest from Pacifica students, our on-campus coaches from other sports who were very interested to coach, and our parent volunteers, Pacifica fielded

a team this year. The Pacifica mariners proudly held its first Girls Flag Football contest on September 6, 2023 with a 14-6 victory! Sophomore Callie Gillespie who handed the ball off to Skyli Nguyen for Pacifica's touchdown says that her favorite part of being on the Flag Football team is "being part of something new and being involved." We are so excited to see our players learn new plays and systems every week. We expect girls Flag Football to grow in popularity as fast as soccer did years ago!



It's not Fall without football: Pacifica Mariners Flag Football Players in action!

Paine Elementary School

15792 Ward St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6118 • paine.ggusd.us



Charise Santana
Principal

Building a Foundation for Success

Paine's Student Council has a significant impact on the life of the school, so Paine's community was thrilled that a record number of students chose to become involved by running for office. These 28 candidates strategically planned their vision for the school, articulated their ideas to others, and created posters and campaign slogans. The candidates exhibited outstanding leadership qualities as they stood before their peers and delivered creative and meaningful campaign speeches. Those elected will serve as the voice of the student body as they plan and implement student activities that contribute to school spirit and community welfare. All participants learned valuable lessons in leadership and many expressed an interest in serving on committees to support those who were elected to office. These students exemplify the GGUSD Strategic Plan: Academic Skills + Personal Skills = Lifelong Success. We look forward to the positive difference they will make at school and in the world!



Students running for Student Council developed impressive posters and campaign platforms to contribute to the outstanding culture and climate at Paine Elementary School.

Parkview Elementary School

12272 Wilken Way, Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6266 • parkview.ggusd.us



Ryan Baker
Principal

Learning with Technology and Flexible Seating

Parkview Elementary School students returned for the 2023-24 school year eager to learn and happy to see new flexible seating furniture in all classrooms and in the library. In their classrooms, each student found their own Chromebook or iPad and will be using this technology daily in preparing presentations, reports, experiments and research. This access to technology, and high-quality instruction from their teachers, helps Parkview consistently outperform the county and state averages in both Math and English Language Arts on the annual California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test. In addition to annual academic success, we remain focused on our students' mental health. Our Wellness Center moved to Room 31 this year and will continue to be staffed by licensed counselors ready to help our kids. We are extremely

proud of all Parkview teachers, staff, and students and look forward to another successful school year!



Parkview's library and classrooms feature flexible seating to provide students with a comfortable learning environment.

Patton *Elementary School*

6861 Santa Rita Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 • 714/663-6584 • patton.ggusd.us



Kai Chang
Principal

Lunch Bunch with Aspire

Patton Elementary School has always been committed to teaching the whole child. Our Aspire Team is off to a great start in providing multi-tiered support to our students, families, and staff. The Aspire members have created opportunities to build a positive school climate and culture such as Lunch Bunch. During lunch, students visit the Wellness Room and are greeted by calming music to recharge their brain. They enjoy self-care time with various activities: board games, puzzles, arts and crafts, sensory stations, reading, yoga and much more. The daily Lunch Bunch groups allow the Aspire team to reach all students. The Wellness Room at Patton Elementary is one of many ways we continue to expand our mental health support for our Patton Patriots. We are extremely proud of our Patton family and look forward to another successful school year building positive relationships.



Patton Elementary students taking a brain break in the Wellness Room.

Peters *Elementary School (K-3)*

13162 Newhope St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6085 • petersk3.ggusd.us



Kyle Benham
Principal

Panda Pride is Strong

The 2023-24 school year is off to a great start! The first day of school brought anticipation and excitement for all! To kick off the school year, all students participated in the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) rollout, where the school's expectations of being responsible, respectful, and safe were explicitly taught in specific areas of the school (hallways, restrooms, playground, and lunchroom). Character

traits (self-control, empathy, integrity, grit, embracing diversity) are highlighted, and students are recognized and celebrated at monthly Super Kid Assemblies led by our third grade student council. A special thank you to Elk's Lodge #1952 for donating playground balls and hula hoops to student to use during PE and recess and to all who joined the PTO to make special events happen for students. Please stay up-to-date with the happenings at Peters K-3 by accessing the school website at <https://petersk3.ggusd.us/>, and don't forget to read those Parent Square messages. Panda Pride is strong at Peters K-3 Elementary.



Students recently participated in Spirit Day by coming to school dressed as their favorite superheroes.

Peters Elementary School (4-6)

13200 Newhope St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6070 • peters46.ggusd.us



Sean Dishong
Principal

Celebrating Diversity

Peters 4-6 Elementary School was proud to host the Santiago High School Folklorico Dance Club on September 15, 2023, to kick off our school-wide celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Our students enjoyed watching the Santiago dancers perform traditional, cultural dances from different regions of the Hispanic world. Students also

got to hear from the dancers about what inspired them to begin dancing and what they have to look forward to as they continue their education in GGUSD. Best of all, many of our students were able to see their culture represented and celebrated and took pride in where they came from. We look forward to continuing events like this during the school year to celebrate our diverse student population and the strength that comes from honoring and respecting one another.



Students pose with Santiago Folklorico Dance Club members after Hispanic Heritage Month cultural assembly.

Post Elementary School

14641 Ward St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6354 • post.ggusd.us



Jamie Shippee
Principal

A New Year for New Learning

Post scholars have been busy learning this year! In transitional kindergarten, students are working on sharing, sitting on the rug, and writing letters. One of kindergarteners' favorite time of the day is developmental play time. During developmental play time, students use their imaginations in the play kitchen, blocks area or alphabet center. First graders are working on learning to read by blending letters to sound out words and second graders are moving towards reading multisyllabic words and chapter books. Post third graders are busy memorizing multiplication facts to prepare to work on perimeter and area in fourth grade. Not only are the fifth grade Post Panthers improving their ability to cite evidence during writing, but they are working on complex yoga poses during physical education. Sixth graders are getting ready for middle school by focusing on fractions, group discussions and team work.



Kindergarten students love developmental play time!

Ralston *Intermediate School*

10851 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6366 • ralston.ggusd.us



Feather Hocking
Principal

Unified through P.E.

Ralston is the first intermediate school in GGUSD to offer a Unified Physical Education program through Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools. Our

Adapted PE teacher works alongside our Special Education and General Education teachers to provide one PE class where students with and without disabilities are partnered together to learn sports skills, physical fitness and leadership skills. Students across the school are learning acceptance, empathy, tolerance, and much more as we offer schoolwide activities about inclusion and acceptance of others.



For Ralston Intermediate School teachers and students celebrate the school's Unified Physical Education program.

Rancho Alamitos *High School*

11351 Dale St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6415 • www.ranchoalamitoshs.com



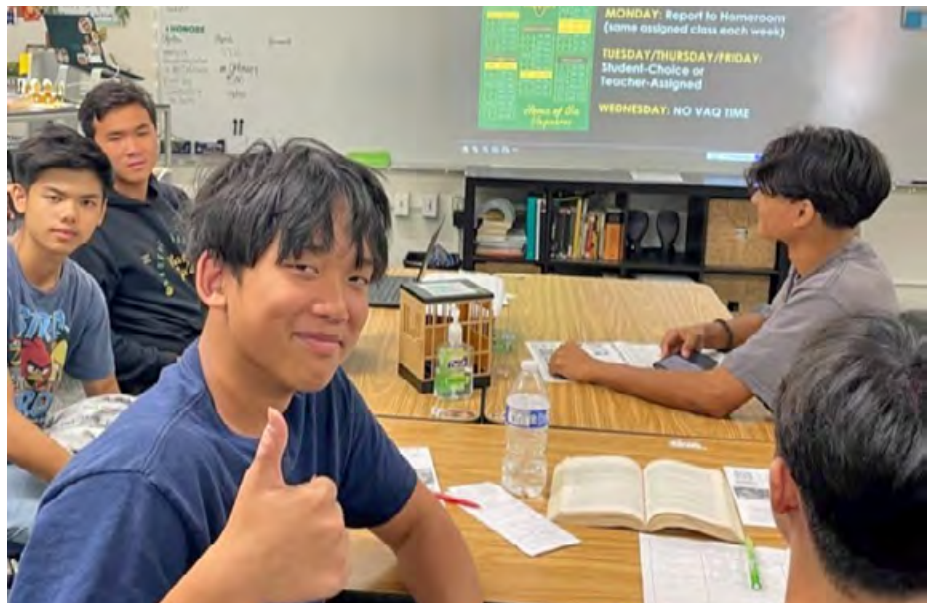
Linda Giuliani
Principal

VAQ Time

Rancho is excited to incorporate VAQ time to our school schedule. Each Monday in Homeroom, students determine what classes they need academic support in on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Students and staff saw a need for targeted support during the day

and it has been both well received and well utilized. Students are getting into the groove of setting goals, planning their VAQ time and seeing their progress. For two weeks in the beginning of the year, Homeroom focused on Community Building, Emotional Wellness and Self-Regulatory skills. This set the stage for using their VAQ time wisely each week gave students a Homeroom community to start off the week with fun and purpose. We are excited to offer this

additional level of support that students can access during the school day. Both students and staff are creating ways for this time together to be tailor made for their needs.



Rancho students enjoy Vaq Time which allows them to receive targeted academic support in the content areas where they need it most.

Riverdale Tech Academy

13222 Lewis St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6563 • riverdale.ggusd.us



Jason Shabet
Principal

Teaching with Technology

Riverdale Elementary is kicking off its second year as an Apple Distinguished School and is proud to be one of the few schools in California to meet this rigorous threshold. All teachers have completed systematic training in conjunction with Apple headquarters in Cupertino and continue to receive ongoing support from our Evaluation and Research department. Through this partnership with Apple, our students have gained exposure to 21st Century Learning Standards and have gained the knowledge to integrate technology to access curriculum, work collaboratively, and use their imagination to produce unique and inspiring projects across multiple subjects. In addition to technology, Riverdale is also excited to bring Folklorico Dance to our school for the first time. This program that was made possible from a great partnership with our PTA, will allow our students to develop a deeper appreciation for the Hispanic culture through their involvement in this traditional dance of Mexico.



As an Apple Distinguished School, Riverdale Elementary students use iPads for research and to create interactive class projects.

Rosita Elementary School

4726 W. Hazard Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92703 • 714/663-6418 • rosita.ggusd.us



Cheryl DeLos Reyes-Ruiz
Principal

Creating Community through Buddies

Rosita Elementary School offers a wonderful program to support Goal 1: Academic Skills and Goal 2: Personal Skills called Little Buddies and Big Buddies. The purpose is to create opportunities for mentoring, increase students' self-esteem, and develop positive behaviors. Students are strategically paired up based on skill levels, language, and behaviors. The classes meet monthly and participate in a variety of activities including sharing the love of reading with each other, teaching first graders how to tie shoes using yarn, asking and answering questions about each other, and working on fine motor skills through drawing and making crafts. This allows students to

interact, builds character, and promotes leadership. The Buddies program has been a success and fosters a sense of community at Rosita.



First and second grade students are paired up with fifth grade students as part of Rosita's Buddies program.

Russell *Elementary Language Academy*

600 S. Jackson St., Santa Ana, CA 92704 • 714/663-6151 • russell.ggusd.us



Carol Haase
Principal

Helping Students Thrive

At Russell, we take pride in pursuing the three district goals. In doing so, we are addressing Goal 2: Personal Skills by offering a wellness room for our students. We are staffed with social workers, counselors and interns who serve students five days each week. Students can receive individual counseling, participate in group sessions which address confidence or self-esteem, friendship skills, positive coping skills and/or receive Social Emotional lessons in class. Students can visit the wellness center during their recess time if they'd like. It is important to ensure wellness in our students and offer a rigorous, safe environment where students can thrive!



Students at Russell Elementary Language Academy enjoy the activities in the school's new Wellness Room.

Santiago *High School*

12342 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6215 • www.santiagohs.org



Christine Pijl
Principal

Freshmen Focus

At the beginning of the school year, Santiago's freshmen students had the opportunity to meet with Santiago administration and staff for Freshmen Orientation. Students participated in small group exercises focused on team building, scavenger hunts to learn about the campus, socio-emotional supports, and FUN! Freshmen were able to learn about clubs, sports, and activities offered at the school, as well as learn about academic and socio-emotional supports provided. An assembly followed with key information for a successful year and performances by Cheer, Drill, and the Band. A Parent Meeting took place later that night ensuring parents were aware of high school expectations, supports available for students, and parent involvement opportunities were emphasized. In addition, AVID freshmen, CORE Freshmen, and students in the Early College Academy had

additional time to meet their teachers and advisors before school to learn more about their program and become engaged into the Santiago culture.



Freshman students enjoyed an exciting assembly with performances from cheer, drill and band to welcome them to the Santiago school community.

Simmons *Elementary School*

11602 Steele Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6096 • simmons.ggusd.us



Dr. Tanya De Leon
Principal

Simmons Celebrates Wellness and Positive Behavior

Simmons Elementary is proud to welcome back our students with a variety of programs to support wellness, learning, and family engagement. Our school celebrated the start of school with a community pancake breakfast. Our district Food

Services team proudly served more than 300 freshly grilled breakfasts to our families at this special event.

This year, our parent volunteers are also helping with our monthly Dolphin Store. Our students are rewarded with Dolphin Tickets for being Respectful, Responsible and Safe. Additionally, we are inviting our families to participate in our monthly Dolphin Pride Spirit Awards to recognize positive student behaviors on campus.

Every month, in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, our staff and parent volunteers also organize a monthly food bank with fresh produce out of our Multipurpose Room. The dates are advertised through Parent Square and are open to the public.



Simmons staff and parent volunteers proudly organize healthy produce for the monthly free food pantry.

Skylark *Preschool*

11250 MacMurray Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6336 • skylark.ggusd.us



Cammy Devereux
Principal

Ready-Set-Grow!

Even at the preschool level, our three district goals are at the foundation, cultivating school success for our students. To bring learning to life and increase motivation, students

are actively engaged in hands-on experiences throughout the day. Problem solving and critical thinking skills are supported by open-ended learning opportunities with a special focus on the arts and STEM. Our young students are encouraged to communicate and discuss what they are learning and how they feel as they explore, discover and play together. Creativity and innovation are definitely thriving at Skylark Preschool!



Students enjoy making music at Skylark Preschool.

Stanford Elementary School

12721 Magnolia St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6458 • stanford.ggusd.us



Jamie Wells
Principal

Unleashing Creativity and Connecting with Families

The Stanford PTO has scheduled many fun events such as a PTO Membership Drive, Movie Nights, KONA Ice, Skate Night, Winter Wonderland, Trunk or Treat and spirit wear sales. This year our PTO

also hosted Stanford's first Schoolwide Rock Painting Event. The event was a huge success. The PTO set up tables for students to paint their rocks. This exciting event turned out to be a fantastic opportunity for families to come together, express their artistic flair, and create beautiful painted rocks to be displayed in our new school garden.



The Stanford community began the school year with a fun family event.

Stanley Elementary School

12201 Elmwood St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6484 • stanley.ggusd.us



Angie Balius
Principal

Exploring College Interests

The enthusiasm among Stanley students for connecting with local colleges and universities is truly inspiring. Through a thoughtful letter-writing campaign, students in fifth and sixth grade completed a lesson where they researched, selected, and reached out to their chosen colleges, expressing their

eagerness to represent these colleges on our campus during our College Wear Wednesdays. Their well-researched letters not only requested college swag in the form of socks, hats, or shirts but also demonstrated their genuine interest in learning more about the schools, including their locations, courses of study, and athletic programs. The heartwarming response from these colleges, sending care packages and personalized notes in return, has not only ignited the students' excitement but also served as a valuable lesson in communication, research, and the power of a handwritten message. This activity has motivated our students to focus on Life-Long Success.



Fifth and sixth graders from Stanley Elementary School show off the college shirts that they received as part of a research and writing exercise.

Sunnyside Elementary School

9972 Russell Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6158 • sunnyside.ggusd.us



Marcie Griffith
Principal

Inspiring Assembly

In addition to our top-notch teaching and learning, Sunnyside students often attend educational and entertaining assemblies. Earlier this year, fifth and sixth grade students attended an assembly featuring Kids4CPR which taught students how to perform CPR and use the AED device in case of emergency. This assembly may have inspired some students to pursue a career as a first responder and surely taught all students important life-saving skills. Sunnyside Elementary continues to create an environment that fosters growth, celebrates diversity and helps students thrive, both in and out of the classroom.



Fifth and sixth grade students learned lifesaving skills at a recent assembly.

Violette Elementary School

12091 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6203 • violette.ggusd.us



Sarah Van Dam
Principal

Excellence with PBIS

Violette Elementary School is proud to announce its recent Gold Recognition for the successful implementation of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. At Violette Elementary, we believe in three core principles: “We are responsible, we are respectful, we are kind.” Our schoolwide PBIS efforts encompass Tier 1 and Tier 2 supports, which include:

- Clear Expectations: Clearly defined behavioral expectations for all students.
- Happy Mail: Sending cheerful notes to acknowledge students’ achievements.
- Positive Phone Calls: Celebrating student success with parents.
- Violette HUG Check-in/Check-out Program: Providing additional support for students when needed.
- Violette Wellness Center: Supporting students’ physical and emotional well-being.
- Structured Recess: Encouraging playtime that promotes respect and cooperation.

This Gold Recognition is a testament to our school community’s dedication to creating a safe and nurturing environment where every student can thrive. We are excited to continue fostering a positive school culture at Violette Elementary.



Supervisors closely monitor students during structured recess to support safety, positive social interactions, and fair play.

Virtual Learning Academy

11262 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6292 • vla.ggusd.us



Ruth Dietze
Principal

Phoenix Pride

The Virtual Learning Academy students and staff are off to a great start! In September, we held our first virtual Spirit Assembly where students and staff participated in a Zoom activity and teachers presented awards to our outstanding VLA scholars. We enjoyed being together as a school community to show our Phoenix spirit and celebrate our students' success. Our Leadership Club was introduced and they are busy planning more activities for the month of October which include a pumpkin decorating contest, pumpkin relay, and other fun events at Lincoln Education Center. We will also have a virtual Social on Zoom where students can get to know each other and play virtual games together. As you can see, we are off to another fantastic start at the Virtual Learning Academy. Phoenix Pride!



The VLA's Leadership Club helps plan fun virtual and in-person events for the school year.

Wakeham *Elementary School*

7772 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6407 • wakeham.ggusd.us



Sarah Mershon
Principal

College and Career Readiness

Wakeham Wildcats are kicking off the new year with a focus on our College and Career Readiness plan. We will continue to hold our annual College and Career Week as well as monthly discussions at Flag Assemblies on how we will develop academic and personal skills now to help us in the future. We will incorporate new AVID trainings to support our students with their readiness plans. Students are using their skills in reading and writing to learn across all content, as well as how to work with groups, ask questions, and organize their space and their thinking. Our sixth graders are learning how to use binders to keep all of their notes together, while other grade levels are working on keeping desks and backpacks neat. Wakeham is also starting its

first year with our district's College and Career Mentoring Program. After a kickoff assembly by our superintendent, Dr. Mafi, students are looking forward to learning academic and personal skills for lifelong success.



Wakeham students work on building scholarly habits for future success.

Walton Intermediate School

12181 Buaro St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6040 • walton.ggusd.us



Abbie Stirone
Principal

Promoting Positivity at School

Walton Wildcats go wild at our PBIS ROAR Kick-Off assembly and BBQ. The assembly culminated the end of a week-long focus on ROAR expectations where students received explicit instruction of what it takes to be a successful Wildcat.

Through a combination of student orientations and classroom instruction, students learned specific behaviors to demonstrate Respect, Organization, Attitude, and Responsibility. Of course, part of a successful PBIS framework is recognizing desirable behaviors through an incentive system. The ROAR Kick-Off Assembly, hosted by our fabulous teachers, Mr. Acquarelli and Mr. Newby, reviewed expectations through trivia games. By earning Gotcha tickets, students can save up and purchase treats and incentives. Big ticket items include a private pizza party with friends and large-screen Mario Kart gaming at lunch.



Students had an opportunity to test drive Mario Kart racing at the school's PBIS Roar Kick-Off assembly.

Warren Elementary School

12871 Estock Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6331 • warren.ggusd.us



Chris Holland
Principal

Creating Community through PBIS

Warren Elementary School is off to a strong start this school year, and much of the credit goes to the school's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This comprehensive framework has played a pivotal role in our success, focusing on the diverse needs of students, and fostering a strong sense of community. MTSS at Warren has provided a structured approach

to addressing the academic, social, and emotional well-being of students. Through early intervention and data-driven decision-making, teachers and staff can identify students who may need additional support and tailor instruction to meet their specific needs.

This approach has not only improved academic outcomes but has also created a more inclusive and nurturing environment. By focusing on positive behavior interventions and social-emotional learning, MTSS has helped students develop essential skills, including empathy, self-regulation, and conflict resolution. Moreover, the collaborative nature of MTSS has strengthened the bonds between teachers, students, and families, fostering a sense of unity and shared

responsibility for students' success. The goal at Warren is to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive academically and emotionally, setting the stage for a successful school year and a bright future ahead.



Teachers and staff support the academic and personal growth of all students.

Woodbury *Elementary School*

11362 Woodbury Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6461 • woodbury.ggusd.us



Chris Francis
Principal

Supporting Student Wellness

Our Woodbury Tigers continue to strive toward an inclusive and welcoming school environment! After becoming the first elementary Special Olympics Unified Champion School in GGUSD, we are continuing our work to ensure all students are socially included through

different activities. We are building on our inclusive PE time and mentor program by integrating student leadership through Student Council. We are looking forward to earning national recognition with these steps!

We also celebrated the grand opening of our Wellness Room! Students have a peaceful space designed to help students relax and be mindful in order to reduce stress. The Wellness Room will be used for counseling sessions and students will have access during lunch on specific days to unwind and play board games. Woodbury students are being provided more and more ways to display that Tiger P.R.I.D.E.!



Woodbury students enjoy relaxing with the mindfulness activities offered in the school's Wellness Room.

Zeyen *Elementary School*

12081 Magnolia St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6535 • zeyen.ggusd.us



Gary Gerstner
Principal

Engaging through Play

We live in a digital age and with that comes a lot of children sitting idle looking at a cell phone screen, iPad screen or computer screen. Physical

activity is so important for our children as it helps them learn gross and fine motor skills and supports

their physical and social-emotional well-being. Here at Zeyen Elementary School, we are always looking for ways to get our students active. This year we had a local Eagle Scout build us a Gaga Ball court. This is a fast paced game that enables up to 30 students at a time to participate. Games last about 3-5 minutes each. The object of the game is to be the last person standing. You can only hit the ball with one hand and if you get hit by the ball you are out. In a way, it is similar to dodgeball but within a

confined space and you hit the ball towards others rather than throw it. This game engages many students at once and leaves them energized at the end of their regular and lunch recess.



Zeyen Elementary School has a new Gaga Ball Court which engages many students in a fun physical activity.

Aubtin's Review



Aubtin M.

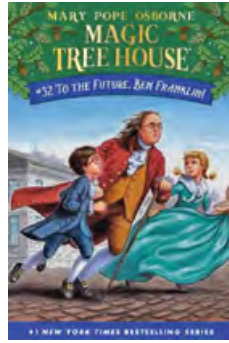
Back to The Future

Title: *Magic Tree House #32 To The Future. Ben Franklin!*

Author: Mary Pope Osborne

Magic Tree House book series is a #1 New York Times bestselling series. This book series is about a brother and sister named Jack and Annie. The two go inside a Magic Tree House that takes them through time to finish a mission.

In this book, they will travel back in time to 1787 to help Benjamin Franklin sign the United States Constitution. They find a way to get close to him, which is



delivering his lunch. They want to know about Ben Franklin, but he has a different idea. He wants to learn all about them! They take him to the present day, but Ben gets scared by the machines. Can Jack and Annie get him to sign the Constitution? I recommend you read this book to find out.

This book is also educational and historical. I hope that you will like it and learn about Ben Franklin who was a scientist, inventor, businessman, diplomat and more.

Aubtin is a 2nd Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading, and drawing. He also likes sports, swimming, trains, cars and computers. He cares a lot about his family and friends.

Curious George Goes to the Zoo 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 GGUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **December 15, 2023**
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- Amazing
- Animals
- Climbed
- Curious
- Danced
- Fun
- George
- Giraffe
- Headquarters
- Hippo
- Leaves
- Park
- Party
- Rhino
- Water
- Wild
- Wonderful
- Zoo
- Zookeeper



Congratulations Jeanne Erickson winner of the May issue Word Search Contest!



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent



Dr. Ramon Miramontes
Deputy
Superintendent
of Instructional
Programs

The Academic Decathlon was established in 1968 as the brainchild of former Orange County Superintendent Dr. Robert Peterson. Students take on 10 challenges, giving speeches, doing interviews, writing essays and answering questions in such subjects as art, economics, literature, math, music and social science. Think of this as a mental Olympics, culminating

with the Super Quiz Relay, an exciting live competition.

For middle school students in grades six, seven and eight, OCDE offers the Academic Pentathlon. This is a five-event competition that focuses on fine arts, literature, math, science and social science, building up to its own Super Quiz Relay.

Both events bring students from different achievement levels together to compete, but it's not just about winning and losing. These are months-long endeavors that are equally about learning, growing and making the kinds of lasting friendships that emerge when students tackle challenges together. This year's decathlon theme is "Technology and Humanity," reflecting one of the most important issues of our time.

Scholarly competitions like the decathlon and pentathlon aren't the only options available. Public school students in Orange County can also connect through campus clubs, sports teams, career exploration programs, student government, community service projects, the performing arts, cultural clubs, peer mentoring, service learning projects and much more. Ultimately, it's about understanding the aptitudes and interests of each student and finding the activities that will most engage and inspire them.

So here's my call to action: As parents and educators, let's envision education beyond the classroom walls. Let's introduce each learner to activities that will help them truly belong to their school. Let's consistently inspire the next generation of leaders, thinkers and achievers to engage in transformative experiences that will enrich their lives and potentially impact their communities.

The connections they forge today will not only shape their current academic achievements but will also lay the foundation for more resilient, fulfilled and empowered individuals in the future.

For more information about the Orange County Academic Decathlon and Academic Pentathlon, or if your middle or high school is interested in starting a program, contact OCDE Coordinator Kristin Rigby at 714-966-4435 or krigby@ocde.us

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