

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Little Lake City School District



Volume 9, Issue 26

November 2023

Congratulations!



**Teacher of the Year
Diana Sanchez**

Students First! Results Matter! Whatever It Takes!

¡Los Estudiantes Primero! ¡Los Resultados Importan! ¡Hacer lo que Sea Necesario!

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com



You're in **Good Hands**

Recipient Healthgrades Specialty Clinical Quality and Safety Awards



Patient Safety Excellence Award™

Top 5% in the nation preventing infections, medical errors, and other preventable complications

Pulmonary Care Excellence Award™

Treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) 4-Star Rating



Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings (2023)

For quality care and patient safety



Free parking
13222 Bloomfield Ave. in Norwalk
LACH-Norwalk.com | (562) 863-4763

Superintendent



Jonathan Vasquez
Superintendent

Little Lake City School District Community

I am honored and thrilled to address you as the new Little Lake City School District Superintendent. As I begin my 32nd year in education, I am excited to embark on this journey with a community I hold dear to my heart. I previously served in various administrative positions in the Los Nietos School District, including 13 years as Superintendent.

At Little Lake City School District, we are committed to providing a quality education that prepares our students for a bright future. To that end, all nine of our schools have been recognized for their academic excellence, ability to close the achievement gap, and the ability to create safe, respectful, and positive learning environments. Little Lake City schools are Gold Ribbon Schools; all have been honored by the California Business for Education

Excellence; and all schools are PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) award winners. Our two middle schools have been named California Schools to Watch, which has enabled both to qualify for National Schools to Watch recognition. In addition, I am proud to announce that our 2023 SBAC (Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium) results in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science are all above state and county averages.

I am thrilled to continue my professional journey alongside the dedicated educators, staff, students, and families of the Little Lake City School District. Together, we will strive to provide our students with a nurturing and empowering learning environment. I am eager to collaborate with each one of you to build upon the district's achievements and to set new milestones for educational excellence.

I am confident that by working together, we will inspire greatness in our students and create a brighter future for our community.

Teacher of the Year Diana Sanchez

The Little Lake City School District employs an outstanding staff of highly qualified and experienced teachers. Each day, they perform according to district beliefs: Students First! Results Matter! and Whatever It Takes! It is my honor to highlight for readers of School News the 2023-2024 Teacher of The Year, Diana Sanchez.

This accolade, awarded annually, honors those teachers who have displayed exceptional dedication, knowledge, and leadership in their profession.

Diana Sanchez is an esteemed educator at Cresson Elementary School. Originally from Ecuador, her educational journey as a 16-year-old teacher at the "American Language School" after being a student there herself. Immigrating to the U.S. and overcoming the challenges of language and culture, she completed her Bachelor's in Spanish from California State University Los Angeles in 1998. In the same year, she joined the Little Lake City School District.



Diana's dedication to education took her through various teaching roles—from elementary to high school. However, her heart always found its way back to elementary education. In 2015, she returned to the Little Lake City School District, teaching grades K-3. Here, she has been a guiding force, mentoring new teachers and leads several committees to ensure a holistic educational experience for the students.

Diana's resume is nothing short of impressive:

Education

- B.A. Spanish from CSULA
- Multiple Subject Credential/BCLAD from CSUDH

Leadership Roles

- Department Head of Foreign Languages at Calvary Chapel Christian School
- SPIRAL Project Mentor
- Member of several committees at Little Lake City School District

Awards

- Little Lake City School District Teacher of the Year 2023.
- Outstanding Educator at Calvary Chapel Christian School in 2010

Diana's story is a source of inspiration for many, and her commitment to nurturing the next generation are commendable. We celebrate her achievements as she takes home the prestigious Teacher of the Year award.

Julie T.
Teacher
Member Since 2006



Our Members are unique.

So are their financial needs.

**Explore products and services
designed just for school employees.**

Summer Saver

A high-yield savings account, currently 6.50% APY,¹ helps you set aside funds to get through the months you may not receive a paycheck.

School Employee Mortgage

No Private Mortgage Insurance and low down payment option.

**School Employee Auto Loan
with “Summers Off”**

Skip a payment or two during the summer.²

Learn more about Membership at
schoolsfirstfcu.org/whyjoin

All loans subject to approval. **1.** APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rate is valid as of 09/01/2023, accurate as of the last dividend declaration date, variable and subject to change after account opening. Deposits by payroll deduction, direct deposit or automatic share-to-share transfer only. Minimum monthly deposit is \$1; maximum is \$2,000. New Summer Saver accounts are limited to current school employees; retired school employees are not eligible. One Summer Saver account per Membership. **2.** Available on select terms. Restrictions apply. Interest will continue to accrue during the skip payment period.

Board of Education



**Manuel
Cantu**
President



**Gina
Ramirez**
Vice President



**Janet
Rock**
Clerk



**Jasmine
Sanchez**
Member



**Hilda
Zamora**
Member

Our goal, as the Board of Trustees in the Little Lake City School District, is to provide our students with a quality education to ensure their success, and to always keep in mind our district beliefs: Students First! ResultsMatter! and Whatever It Takes!

Mr. Manuel Cantu, board president, was first elected to Little Lake City School Board of Education in November 2020. His current term expires in 2024. Mr. Cantu is a lifelong resident of the City of Norwalk. He is a proud product of the Little Lake City School District having attended Cresson Elementary School, Lake Center Middle School and later graduated from Santa Fe High School. He continued his formal education attending Long Beach City College and Cal State University of Los Angeles where he majored in Business Management and Economics. Mr. Cantu raised two daughters in the City of Norwalk and both also attended Lakeland Elementary and Lake Center Middle Schools and Santa Fe High School. Mr. Cantu is a 35-year employee with the City of Santa Fe Springs and is currently a Program Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department. Manuel is currently on the District's Business Services Committee and serves as the District's Board member on the Little Lake Educational Advancement Foundation (LLEAF) and has also completed the California Schools Business Association (CSBA) Master's in Governance Program. Manuel will continue to strive to ensure student safety, improve the district's infrastructure and promote the highest quality education for our students while promoting professional development for all faculty and staff.

Gina Ramirez, board vice-president, was first elected to the Little Lake City School Board in 2005 and again in December 2020. She is a lifelong resident of the City of Norwalk. Gina Attended Cresson Elementary, Norwalk Christian and Graduated from St. Paul High School. She continued her Formal education and attended Cerritos College where she earned an Associates of Arts Degree in General Education While working full time as a Preschool teacher and Assistant Director. Gina's later went on to the University of La Verne and earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Early Childhood education. Gina and her husband Rick raised their children in the City of Norwalk and all their sons attended Cresson Elementary, Lake Center Middle School and Santa Fe High School. Gina strives to ensure the students of the district receive the highest quality education while maintaining oversight and transparency.

Janet Rock, board clerk, was elected to the Little Lake City School District Board in November 2011. Her current term expires in December 2024. Her previous Board experience (2001-2005) includes serving as president and clerk. She has been a resident of the district for over sixty years. In addition to her four adult children, Mrs. Rock's grandchildren have also attended Little Lake schools. Mrs. Rock has served as an instructional material specialist in two school districts, including Little Lake. Among her contributions to the district she notes implementation of a full-day kindergarten, participation in the Annenburg Project, and membership on the School Site Council and Strategic Planning committee.

Hilda Zamora, board member, was first appointed to the Little Lake City School District Board in July 2001 to fill a vacancy. She later ran for a Board seat and was elected in November 2001. Her current term expires in 2022. Her previous Board experience included serving as president, vice president, and clerk. She has been a resident of the district for 40 years and all six of her children attended Little Lake City schools, as did her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mrs. Zamora also served on the district's Bilingual Advisory Council as a trainer. She was also nominated as a City of Santa Fe Springs, Citizen of the year. Mrs. Zamora's community involvement spans 30 years and includes serving on the city's Senior Advisory Committee, the Family & Human Advisory Committee, and the Santa Fe Springs Boxing Club. She also served as a city preschool instructional assistant for 26 years.

Jasmine Sanchez, board member, is a product of the Little Lake City School District. She attended Lake Center Middle School and Santa Fe High School. She continued her formal education and attended Rio Hondo College where she earned her Associates of Arts in General Education while working with the federal government and volunteering her time coaching soccer. Later, she attended Cal State University of Dominguez Hills earning her Bachelors of Arts in Political Science. Ms. Sanchez worked for the City of Santa Fe Springs as a Recreation Leader and was in charge of sports for children of all ages. Ms. Sanchez has enjoyed being a mentor to all the children. She has also worked at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center, where she enjoyed her time with Older Adults and other community events. Ms. Sanchez is currently the Head Coach of the Varsity Girls' Soccer for South East High School.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Neta Madison
Netragrednik

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
LITTLE LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:

Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura

COPY EDITORS: Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



@SchoolNewsRC



SchoolNewsRollCall



SchoolNewsRollCall



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

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

562/493-3193

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC

Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Little Lake City School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

This is our 9th year publishing the Little Lake City School District *School News*. We look forward to continuing to publish the excellence from the District under the leadership of Superintendent Jonathan Vasquez.

Congratulations to Diane Sanchez, Teacher of the Year!

Happy Thanksgiving! We are thankful for you, our readers, and your support of public education.

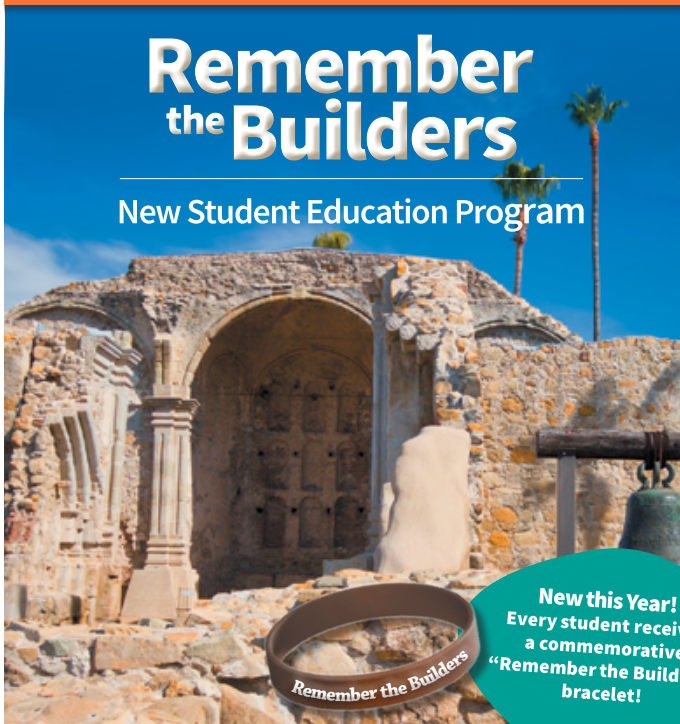
Our next issue is May 8, 2024.



PLAN YOUR FIELD TRIP NOW at Historic Mission San Juan Capistrano

Remember the Builders

New Student Education Program



New this Year!
Every student receives
a commemorative
"Remember the Builders"
bracelet!

NOW BOOKING FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!

Experience the Mission's New
Youth and Student Audio Tour
"If These Walls Could Talk"

**FREE Funding for up to 150 Students
Per Day and Mission Matters**
(Schools must apply)

**FREE Bonus Video Library with
EVERY Booked Field Trip (\$150 Value).**

Book Online Today
MissionSJC.com/book



LLCSD Family Resource Center

*By Monica Johnson,
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services*

The Little Lake City School District is proud to have opened the Family Resource Center (FRC) at the beginning of this school year. The mission of the FRC is to eliminate barriers for all LLCSD students by providing comprehensive services to our most vulnerable populations and advocating for successful transitions, re-engagement, and social emotional awareness with the goal of empowering students to reach their potential and maximize higher educational achievement. The vision of the FRC is to be a support center for students and their families by providing assistance and enhancing the well-being of each individual across the community. The main goals of the FRC are: Remove Barriers, Sustain Stability, Inspire Lifelong Learners.

The FRC offers a variety of no-cost programs, resources, and case management for LLCSD students and families. For McKinney-Vento support, the FRC provides basic needs to students and families living in temporary housing to help remove barriers. For foster youth support, the FRC supports foster youth and caregivers with resources. For case management support, the FRC has bilingual Family Outreach Liaisons that provide case management to families and collaborate with community agencies to provide outside linkages and resources. For mental health support, the FRC meets the socio-emotional needs of students and provide support to families to help their children succeed through a variety of counseling services at LLCSD and referral services.

Additionally, families can pick up clothing, hygiene items, food and other items based on donations. With the collaboration of Giving Children Hope and other community agencies, the FRC provides a weekly food distribution to families that have expressed need. School supplies and backpacks are available on a need basis for students experiencing hardships.

The FRC provides variety of informative, psychoeducational, and interactive workshops throughout the school year to promote parent involvement, family engagement and community awareness. The FRC can also connect parents with career planning and adult education classes such as English as a Second Language, Adult High School Diploma, Career Technical Education, and much more through community colleges.

LLCSD is proud to provide these services and supports to our students and families to ensure their academic and social success.

Little Lake Educational Advancement Foundation

10515 Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-8241 • www.llcsd.net

To Enrich and Support

The mission of the Little Lake Educational Advancement Foundation (LLEAF) is to enrich and support the educational programs of the Little Lake City School District through community fundraising, active involvement, and awareness of the district's and students' needs. Toward that end, LLEAF sponsors a Fourth of July fireworks sale every summer. The LLEAF Board of Directors would like to thank all of you who recently supported the foundation through your purchase of fireworks from our July 4 stand. The proceeds from the fireworks sale will be distributed to our teachers in the form of classroom mini-grants up to \$1,500. Your support will be experienced directly by our students through educational enhancements such as field trips, library books, or special technology equipment. LLEAF looks forward to working with our partners in the community to help realize our mission in the coming year.



A class of its own.

L.A. Honda World is proud to support
the School News Roll Call.

lahondaworld.com

10645 Studebaker Rd. | Downey, CA 90241 | (562) 929-7000



Welcome Back to A New School Year!

Cresson *Elementary*

12011650 Cresson St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-6620 • cresson.llcsd.net



Erin Dunroe
Principal

Welcome Back!

I am excited and proud to start my second year as principal of Cresson Elementary. Prior to joining Cresson, I spent two years at William Orr as a third-grade teacher, seven years at Lake Center as a seventh/eighth-grade science teacher, and five years as the district STEM specialist.

Thanks to Cresson's educational excellence, we earned the California Gold Ribbon, the Title 1 Academic Achievement Award, the California School Board Golden Bell Award, and just this year, the California PBIS Gold Implementation Award. Cresson earned these awards because of the strong academic and social-emotional support provided to all students. Two Cresson staff members help us provide additional support for students. Our teacher-on-special-assignment, Valerie Velasco, coordinates our academic support. She collaborates with classroom teachers to create instructional groups that provide students with additional

academic support, organizes after-school tutoring, and helps create engaging STEM Saturday School experiences.

Cresson also has a full-time elementary counselor, Martha Robles. Our counselor leads group and individual counseling sessions, facilitates conflict resolution between students, leads our peer-mediator program, and provides SEL instruction to all students. This social-emotional and academic support positively impacts Cresson's state testing scores. In grades three through five, 55% of our students scored, met, or exceeded on the English language arts state assessment. This surpasses both the state average of 46.66% and the county average of 47%. On the state math assessment, 36% of our students scored, met, or exceeded on the state math assessment, which also surpassed the state average of 34.62% and county average of 34.75%.

As the Cresson team continues to provide rigorous academic instruction, intentional academic support, and compassionate social emotional development, we will continue to see students capable of handling social and academic challenges.



Students viewing the eclipse at Cresson's STEM Saturday School.

Jersey Avenue *Elementary*

9400 Jersey Ave., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/948-3772 • jersey.llcsd.net



Denise Frenes-Gomez
Principal

A Successful Year Ahead

I am excited to begin my sixth year as Jersey Avenue Elementary's principal, and I want to welcome our Eagles and their families to the 2023-2024 school year!

I would like to share some of our celebrations:

Jersey was recognized with the PBIS Silver Award for the third consecutive year.

Our PBIS coach, Miss Worcester, has done a fabulous job in leading our PBIS efforts

and encouraging our students to SOAR by showing Safety, Ownership, Achievement, and Respect. We are also fortunate to have our TOSA, Mrs. Godinez, who has led much of the academic and intervention efforts on campus.

Our SBAC scores were recently announced, and I'm proud to share that Jersey was above the county and state averages in ELA and math, with 52 percent for ELA and 39 percent for math. We thank our incredible teachers, interventionists, and instructional assistants for their

hard work in the classroom that has led to this academic success.

Our students' social-emotional well-being is also very important to us. Our school counselor, Mrs. Delgado, has done an amazing job of establishing clubs and programs that encourage our students to become leaders on campus. We had over 40 students apply to be in the Kindness Club, where students help around the campus in various capacities.

I am also proud to share that many of our fourth- and fifth-graders participated in a two-day training with the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative to become peer mediators to help resolve conflict among students.

We have also voted in our new ASB Cabinet for the 2023-2024 school year, and they have already done a great job of planning student activities. We finally feel that we have a "normal" school year planned, and have many family events scheduled. Many thanks to our PTO.

I look forward to a collaborative and successful year with our entire Jersey community!



Lake Center Middle School

10503 Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-4977 • lakecenter.lcsd.net



Jack Sokoloff
Principal

Layers of Support

Welcome back, Leopards! We are excited to kick off another year of learning for all our students. Our great teachers and staff members have spent considerable time in preparing, planning, and creating activities to engage our students in learning. We firmly believe that all students should promote from middle school prepared for the demands of high school and beyond.

The hard work of our students and teachers paid off last year. We are pleased to report that the children did well on the state tests. Our English Learner test results indicate that almost half of them became fluent in English by the time they reached the eighth grade. In addition, our overall English results on the state tests kept pace at the same level as in the past.

Regarding math, this is an area that shows how we need to do something a bit different. While our math scores did increase, we are not satisfied with the results, and have a plan to help our students.

First, we will offer a wide range of after-school tutoring. In addition, most of our students participate in our Period 3 Intervention and Enrichment program, where they rotate into support or enrichment classes based on grades, tests, and teacher recommendations. We also have an additional counselor to further support the emotional needs of our students.

Moreover, our teachers regularly meet with each other to create a plan to address student learning, and they also meet with the principal five times per year to discuss how they support their students. These are a few of the ways in which we provide layers of support at Lake Center Middle School. We are looking forward to a great year!





**Georgette
Baltierrez-
Manohorathat**
Principal

A ROAR-tiffic Year!

Greetings for the 2023-2024 school year! It fills me with great enthusiasm as I embark upon my seventh year as the principal of Lakeland Elementary School.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of our parents and families for contributing

to the success of the first few months of this academic year. Our devoted teachers and staff members have meticulously gone over the rules and procedures with our students, and are now wholeheartedly engaged in educating each and every one of them.

We have also initiated our Response to Intervention model, utilizing student achievement data to customize instruction for the unique needs of each student in English language arts and mathematics. Our teachers are working diligently to ensure that the needs of all of our children are being met, and our commitment to delivering a high-quality education remains firm.

I am delighted to announce that we have achieved Platinum status this year for our outstanding implementation of the PBIS program. We continue to uphold our practice of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), with a focus on teaching school-wide expectations and rewarding positive behaviors through weekly prize drawings.

Students have the chance to win prizes by submitting their ROARS tickets, and classes can earn class prizes through Golden Tickets, which they obtain by collectively demonstrating positive behavior. Moreover, some students may be chosen as the ROAR-tiffic Lion of the Month, a recognition reserved for those who consistently embody the qualities of a Lakeland Lion, which is to always be Ready to learn, On task, Accepting of differences, Responsible, and Safe. Each month we will select new ROAR-tiffic Lions.



In addition, all of our classes have implemented our social-emotional learning program, with each unit dedicated to various essential topics such as bullying, accepting differences, emotion management, and problem-solving, among others.

I am absolutely thrilled to commence this year with our close-knit Lakeland community. The commitment of this community to the success of our students is evident in the interactions I have had with both parents and staff. Together, we are steadfast in our dedication to the social-emotional and academic well-being of our students.

I eagerly anticipate an extraordinary school year. May it be a year filled with ROAR-tiffic achievements and growth for all!



Lakeside *Middle School*

11000 Kenney St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9422 • lakeside.llcsd.net



Rosa Alcalá
Principal

Well-Rounded Curriculum

We are excited to welcome the 2023–24 school year! As a first-year principal, I am excited and honored to showcase all the hard work that Lakeside has been doing.

We welcomed our sixth-grade students at the beginning of the school year with our WEB leaders, who did an amazing job of making all sixth-graders feel that they belong! As the weeks continued, our WEB program hosted several activities during lunch to ensure that there is a connection among all our students.

Yet the connection is not only for our sixth-grade students. Our ASB and leadership teams have been hard at work providing lunchtime activities for students, and they have many more activities planned throughout the year. Our teachers and school community work hard every day to provide our students with an all-encompassing education. I have had the opportunity to visit every

classroom and can see firsthand the hard work that teachers do.

At Lakeside, we have much to celebrate! Our recent 2022–23 SBAC scores show that schoolwide, our students outperformed at the state level by 13.4% in ELA, and in math, we increased our school score by 3%. These huge accomplishments are to be celebrated!

We continue to be in the nationally recognized Schools to Watch and are currently going through our third redesignation. Yet we not only recognize student achievement—we also recognize that we must continue to provide our students with social and emotional support. We continue to have a full-time counselor, Mrs. Dahle, whom our students have access to daily and an online partnership with a telehealth corporation for those families who would like to access support virtually.

At Lakeside, we believe that all students have an opportunity to have an academically rigorous curriculum and social and emotional support.



Lakeview *Elementary*

11500 Joslin St., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-8655 • lakeviewllcsd.net



Kelly Love
Principal

Exceeding Expectations

It is an honor to continue serving this year as Lakeview Elementary's principal. My name is Kelly Love, and this is my fifth year serving our school community and my seventh year serving the Little Lake City School District. This is truly a special place filled with staff who care deeply about the student as a whole person. We support students' academic and social-emotional needs throughout the school day. I am excited and enthusiastic about

the plans for our 2023–24 school year. Lakeview is a place where all students matter and everyone belongs.

Our active PTO is planning extraordinary events to continue to build a school community that supports students and families. This year's PTO has been extremely organized and has a lot of great ideas to ensure that school is a fun and engaging place to be for students, staff, and parents.

We are an award winning school with honors such as the Distinguished School Award, Gold Ribbon Award, and PBIS Gold Award. Current state assessments show that Lakeview is performing above state averages and equal to the county averages in ELA as well as performing above the state and county averages in math! With math as our focus last year, it's exciting to see that our instructional strategies as well as our interventions paid off with a 14% increase from last year's scores! Fifth-grade has exceeded all expectations, with scores exceeding prepandemic numbers in ELA and science! We will be focusing on both ELA and math this year, but we are starting out with a heavy emphasis on ELA. I know we will continue to see our scores increase and exceed expectations!



William Orr *Elementary*

12130 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-7988 • williamorr.lcisd.net



Rebecca Casillas
Principal

Great Start!

Welcome to the 2023–24 school year! My name is Rebecca Casillas, and I am honored to serve our community as the principal of William Orr Elementary. This will be my 11th year as principal at Orr. I am excited for this school year and look forward to working alongside you to support your children.

We have much to celebrate at Orr! First, we were awarded a 2022 CSBA Golden Bell Award for our exemplary Autism Focus program, which focuses on students' academic, social, and adaptive-living skills. Through its innovation, everyone benefits from our program, not just our Autism Focus students. Having our autism program has positively impacted our entire school culture, allowing us to celebrate diversity and function as one student body with a goal to be successful and caring citizens. We are extremely proud of this recognition, as it validates all the hard work of our teachers and staff to meet the needs of our students.

William Orr also demonstrated success on the 2023 SBAC assessment taken by students in grades three through five. In ELA, 61% of students met or exceeded the standard, which was higher than the district (56%), county (47%), and state (47%). In math, 54% of students met or exceeded the standard, again scoring higher than the district (38%), county (35%), and state (35%). Our English learners also showed success on the state's ELPAC assessment. In grades three through five, 73% of EL students scored in the highest two tiers of English proficiency. Our efforts to provide solid instruction using research-based strategies as well as timely and systematic interventions to those needing additional support are making a difference.

Once again, welcome to a new school year, and thank you for entrusting your children to us at Orr and being our partner in their education!



Paddison *Elementary*

12100 Crewe St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-7741 • paddison.llcsd.net



**Dr. Lorena
Martinez-Vargas**
Principal

Learning and Growing Together

The 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start! With a successful first day of school, and Back to School Night behind us, our students, families, and teachers have settled into a rhythm that will ensure an amazing school year.

My name is Lorena Martinez-Vargas; as I begin my 10th year of service as Paddison's principal, I am pleased to say that I personally know all of the students and the majority of our families. And I am very excited to meet those students and families who are new to our school. We welcome everyone!

Paddison's school program successfully balances academic rigor and social-emotional well-being. Dedicated professionals identify and proactively meet the needs of each and every student. Our overall state assessment data evidences our academic achievement: Paddison's students have scored above their state and county peers in both ELA and math assessments.

But supporting student achievement is a team effort. Our teachers, site school counselor, Teacher on Special Assignment, and other dedicated staff members, and the principal, constantly monitor the academic progress of each and every student. They ensure targeted interventions, address specific learning needs, and foster meaningful personal connections to address social-emotional needs.

We also know our students by name! And our daily practices have led to awards and recognitions. For instance, Paddison has received California's highest honors, Distinguished School (2012 and 2020) and Gold Ribbon (2016) recognitions, and in 2023, we were recognized for Positive Behavior Intervention Supports Implementation at the Gold Level.

Together, we ensure that every student has a connection with someone, a connection that supports achievement and fosters well-being. Paddison is a wonderful place to learn and teach. At Paddison, everyone is expected to be safe, be responsible, be respectful and be kind. Our school-wide expectations keep us focused as we learn, grow, and have fun together!

As always, go Panthers!

Studebaker *Elementary*

11800 Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-7882 • studebaker.llcsd.net



Yasmin Ruiz
Principal

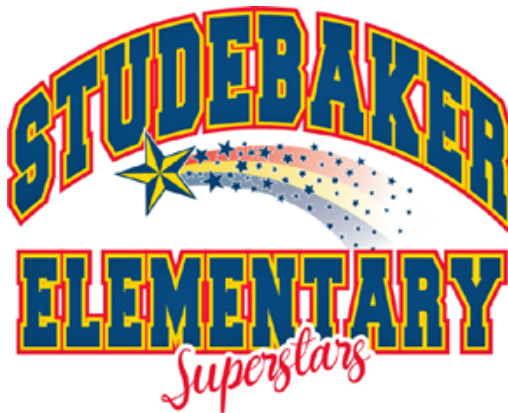
Done It Again!

Hello, my amazing Studebaker family! I have some fabulous news to share with you!

Studebaker has done it again! We have exceeded the state and county with our SBAC

scores. Woo hoo! Our score in ELA was 56%, whereas the state's and county's were 47%. In math, Studebaker scored 46%, whereas the state's and county's were 35%. Although it's only a third-through-fifth-grade student test, this great achievement is because of all the teachers!

Once we returned to normal after the last three difficult years, all our teachers worked harder than ever to tackle the learning loss. As you can see from our scores, it has been a total success. Studebaker has put in place many interventions that have contributed to our success. Besides our daily RtI intervention, instructional assistants pull out students in order to address any gaps in student learning.



Mrs. Sanchez, our fabulous TOSA, spent her mornings working with fourth- and fifth-grade students for a half-hour daily to provide academic support in math. We also had 13 teachers volunteer for after-school tutoring, which allowed us to provide both ELA and math intervention in all grade levels.

Now—last, but absolutely not least, our students have gone above and beyond to make up for lost time and also push themselves to keep up with new learning. Here at Studebaker, we have created a culture of growth mindset. We instill in our students that we may not all learn at the same pace but we will all meet our goals with hard work and perseverance.

This is my fourth year as principal of Studebaker Elementary, and I am so lucky to be part of this wonderful community! I taught with many of the teachers when I was a teacher at Studebaker many moons ago. I was proud to teach alongside them, and now I am even more proud to lead them. Studebaker rocks!

Empowering the Future: Integrating Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education to Prepare Students for Tomorrow

By Jose R. Gonzalez, LACOE's Chief Technology Officer



Debra Duardo,
M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent

LACOE is leading the way to explore the fascinating world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its potential impact on education. This technological wave has the potential to reshape the way educators teach and students learn, and I'm eager to delve into the insights it offers.

AI introduces the possibility of enhancing education by providing educators with new insights and tools to create more efficient and personalized learning experiences. While there may be concerns surrounding AI, integrating it into the educational landscape could be a transformative step in preparing students for a future deeply intertwined with technology.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) has taken a commendable initiative to empower educators with the knowledge and skills needed to harness the capabilities of AI. Our comprehensive training program, which includes workshops, webinars, and professional development sessions, and presenting at conferences demonstrates a commitment to demystifying AI and providing educators with a balanced perspective on its potential benefits and challenges. The ongoing training sessions offered by LACOE's Instructional Technology Outreach (ITO) team are particularly noteworthy, as they address crucial aspects like ethical considerations and strategies for leveraging AI to enhance student engagement.

LACOE's active participation in influential conferences like the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE), and Learning, Innovation and Technology in Education (LITE) further solidifies our dedication

to staying at the forefront of educational innovation. LACOE has made a mark by organizing an in-person inaugural AI Symposium, a testament to our commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of AI's role in education. The diverse panel discussions, featuring educators, government officials, administrators, and industry experts, underscore the collaborative effort required to navigate the integration of AI into education successfully.

It's clear that AI should not be viewed as a replacement for educators but as a powerful tool that can amplify its impact. AI's ability to provide insights, identify learning gaps, and personalize instruction has the potential to revolutionize the classroom experience. The emphasis on AI's capacity to enhance student engagement, creativity, and critical thinking aligns with the core values of education.

LACOE's approach of involving all stakeholders – parents, students, teachers, and administrators – in discussions about AI integration is praiseworthy. It reflects an understanding that responsible integration requires a collective effort. Furthermore, the focus on continuous professional development and the development of guidelines for AI usage underscores the importance of a well-informed and cautious approach.

This is an exciting journey to discover all aspects of AI and its benefits and challenges are vital. It will take collaboration between educators, institutions, and technology to shape the future of education. The responsible and thoughtful integration of AI has the potential to create a more dynamic and personalized learning environment for students, and LACOE is eager to provide many perspectives through the journey as educators navigate this transformative landscape.