

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Garvey School District



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November 2025

Every Student Matters!



Every Family Matters!



Every Staff Matters!



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YOU Matter!

The Garvey Team welcomes the new school year with great anticipation and excitement as we celebrate the unique talents and contributions of every one of our students, families, and staff in achieving our collective mission.

Every Student Matters

Garvey embraces the core belief that every student, regardless of their diverse cultural and learning backgrounds, is a leader and can further their growth in a nurturing learning community. Despite the prevailing challenges over the past few years, we stay committed to attaining the Garvey vision of developing future-ready global leaders – leaders who are academically competent, mentally and emotionally strong, and morally driven; leaders who can lead today and build tomorrow; leaders who can advance the local and global communities in both prosperous and turbulent times. To this end, our schools continue to strengthen the “Leader in Me” program to build a culture that fosters the growth of leaders through the “7 Habits of Highly Effective People.” School teams implement with increasing creativity and impact the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system to support students with diverse behavioral needs. Teachers, working in collaboration with counselors, continue to refine the implementation of the adopted social-emotional learning (SEL) programs. Schools are optimizing the purposefully designed “wellness center” to provide a physically and emotionally appealing environment for group and individual SEL activities. Social-emotional health surveys are used to identify high-need students for timely intensive support services. Resources are dedicated to support high-priority students to unleash their potential and cultivate their leadership qualities. Academic and behavioral support staff, including intervention teachers and behavioral specialists provide differentiated services to students with learning and behavioral needs to ensure their success. A variety of research-based intervention programs are utilized to accelerate learning. In addition, the District is reinvigorating our signature academic

programs, including the Dual Language Plus program, STEAM program, and Dual Enrollment program (with the East Los Angeles College), to promote global leaders with multi-lingual, multi-cultural, and cognitive competencies.

Every Family Matters

Garvey values every family and the cultural assets each brings to attain the mission of developing the whole child. We are expanding a variety of support services to nurture the whole family. We organize cultural showcase events to foster cultural proficiency and build connections among families and staff. Through the partnership with community agencies, we offer ongoing parent education to expand parent and family capacity in providing academic support at home, we conduct physical and mental health workshops to promote self-care practices and parents’ skills in ensuring their children’s wellness; we offer families on-campus health services, including vaccinations, dental services, and vision screening at the school-based clinic; we provide counseling services to assist families in addressing crisis situations; we gather physical resources for families in need. The annual Community Wellness Fair provides parents with the opportunities to gain understanding of and access to the district and community resources. The array of support programs and services exemplify our commitment to celebrating each family and promoting their continued growth.

Every Staff Matters

Every staff member, with our unique passion and talents, serves in different roles and contributes to the team synergy essential to the attainment of the collective vision. With a robust system of mutual accountability and support, we collaborate, support and hold one another accountable for fulfilling our responsibilities. Each of our teammates is a unique and significant piece of the Garvey masterpiece!

In the 2025-2026 school year, Garvey is committed to celebrating every student, every family, and every staff as leaders and investing in their continued development. Please visit our schools’ and the District’s websites at www.gesd.us to learn more about our programs and services in supporting our students, and community and partnership opportunities.

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School News

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Monterey Park at Barnes Park

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
 - Saturday, May 30, 2026
 Tuesdays 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 8 Saturdays 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



Boys and Girls ages 7-15

Registration price includes a t-shirt



Plan Ahead & Save

Early: \$150 due by 12/01/25
 Regular: \$175 until 03/01/26
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Child Development

7424 Newmark St., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3396



Dr. Sandra Gonzalez
Director

Strong Start, Bright Future!

Greetings! My name is Sandra Gonzalez, and I have the privilege of serving as the Director of Child Development for the Garvey School District. With over 20 years of experience in the field of early childhood education,

I strongly believe that quality early learning

instruction paves the way for a bright start and lasting success. I am extremely fortunate to serve in this capacity and at the opportunity to work with a great team of dedicated staff to serve the community's youngest. The vision of the Child Development & Early Learning Department is to work collaboratively with parents and the community to establish a strong educational foundation in the lives of young children by providing enriching, stimulating, fun, and engaging developmentally appropriate services that

instill a love for learning. We offer many different program options and schedule variations to meet the needs of the community while fostering a whole-child approach. I look forward to continuing to partner with parents and the community in providing a continuity of services for pregnant women and children age's birth to five.



Arlene Bitely *Elementary School*

7501 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3318 • bitely.garvey.k12.ca.us



Martin Garcia
Principal

Bitely School: Off to A Good Start!

The 2025-2026 school year is officially underway and the energy across Bitely School is electric as students and staff dive into learning -and fun! With the first few weeks already packed full of tradition and celebration, it's clear this year is off to a strong start.

Our Kinder students held their annual Bear Picnic on September 19, 2025. Students

enjoyed having their furry friends join them for lunch during the BEAR Picnic.

“At Bitely it is our goal to build a culture where effort and kindness are celebrated just as much as grades”, said Principal Garcia. These assemblies are a chance to show students that we see their hard work, both in and out of the classroom.

With these joyful events setting the tone for the year, Bitely School is focused on fostering a supportive, enthusiastic, and achievement-oriented environment for all students.



B.E.A.R Awards celebrating student achievement in Academics, Effort and Kindness.



Kindergarten Students enjoying their annual BEAR Picnic.

Dewey Avenue *Elementary School*

525 E. Dewey Ave., San Gabriel, CA 91776 • 626/307-3341 • dewey.garvey.k12.ca.us



Denise Williams
Principal

Great Things Happen at Dewey Elementary!

Bienvenidos! Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. It is with great excitement that I introduce myself as the proud principal of Dewey Elementary, Home of the Dolphins! My name is Denise Williams and I am entering my 6th year here as principal. Through many capacities I have proudly served the Garvey School District for 29 years. After completing my education and credentials from Cal State Los Angeles, I continue to have a passion and love for learning. This year we continue our commitment to excellence, not only in academics, but also in building a strong, supportive community where every student feels valued and inspired to do their best. Our theme this year is "YOU MATTER."

Dewey is happy to offer the Spanish Dual Language Plus program. Our program allows students the opportunity to develop simultaneous proficiency in both English and Spanish. They develop the ability to speak, read, write and listen proficiently in two languages. Our students also receive an additional enrichment in Mandarin to enhance cultural awareness and appreciation of our diverse community. Our program opens doors to new opportunities and helps our students build empathy, confidence, and a broader understanding of the world around them. We believe that language learning is more than just communication- it's a bridge that connects communities, cultures and generations.

Dewey is proud to share that our school continues to grow as a leader in innovative education through our STEAM program. Our program promotes the development of 21st century learners. Our students learn various educational technologies that enhance engaging, hands-on learning experiences utilizing multimedia resources, educational applications, and digital platforms to support personalized learning. We believe that education should prepare students not only for academic success, but also for the rapidly changing world ahead.

Success happens when we work together with purpose and positivity. Together we'll make this a great year filled with growth, kindness, and achievement.



Growing minds at work here at Dewey Elementary!

Duff Language Magnet Academy

7830 Dorothy Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3344 • duff.garvey.k12.ca.us



Dr. Valerie Sun
Principal

Ni Hao Wo Shi Ms. Benitez

By Interim Principal, Gabriela Benitez

As I enter my 11th year as a Garvey school administrator, I am amazed that I can still learn new things about serving as a principal. Opening up this school year as the appointed interim principal of Duff Magnet, has been an extremely rewarding experience. As I reflect on my short time here, I am grateful to have first hand experience of what it takes to operate a dual language program but mostly grateful to have met this dedicated and warm hearted community.

When I first stepped into the role, I knew it would be a unique experience and looked forward to learning as many Chinese words as possible. As difficult as language acquisition is for adults, I am amazed by observing non native speaking students fully engaged in their vibrant Chinese language classrooms.

It has been my pleasure to support Dr. Sun and Duff's vision of creating biliterate and culturally competent global citizens. I am comforted and amazed by students' willingness to not only embrace a second language and culture but a third as they take on the Spanish. Additionally, I am amazed by the tireless efforts of the caring and committed staff. The work they put in to ensure learning in both languages is constantly reflected in their daily instructional program.

I also have been and continue to be inspired every day by the parent community. Their eagerness to help in all ways possible is unmatched and I am thankful for their continued support to keep things running smoothly.

The warmth and work ethic of this community is commendable and I have come to care for the Duff team deeply. Thank you Duff Dragons for allowing me to be a part of your community. I will always cherish my experience and will continue to root for your success.



Duff Magnet embracing Hispanic Heritage Month

Ralph Waldo Emerson *Elementary School*

7544 E. Emerson Pl., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3333 • emerson.garvey.k12.ca.us



Vanessa Arevalo
Principal

Building Up Our Community, Brick by Brick

Emerson Elementary School is proud and excited to start the 2025–2026 school year with great momentum and a shared commitment to student success. We are looking forward to a year filled with new experiences and opportunities to grow together as a school community.

This year marks our second year as part of the California Community Schools Partnership Program. Through this grant, we can sustain impactful programs that support students with targeted interventions, leadership development, and engaging extracurricular activities for all Bulldogs. We are also able to support teachers with high-quality professional development opportunities, allowing them to build new skills and bring innovative practices back to the classroom.

Our theme, “Building Up Our Community, Brick by Brick” truly reflects the spirit of our school. Students and staff are working together to strengthen academics, expand learning opportunities, and promote social wellness, creating a school culture where everyone belongs and thrives.

As we continue our journey in building a positive school environment, we remain focused on Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS), a cornerstone of our schoolwide culture. Through the B.A.R.K.

initiative- Be a Leader, Act Responsibly, Respect Others, & Keep a Positive Attitude- students earn B.A.R.K. Bucks to enjoy fun incentives like the PBIS Store, special events, and play dates.

One of our biggest initiatives this year is improving student attendance. Each day matters in building a strong foundation for academic success. To celebrate positive attendance on CBEDS Day, Principal Mrs. Arevalo and teachers showed their school spirit in a fun and memorable way, by taking a pie in the face for our students!

Families can stay informed by following us on Instagram @weareemersonbulldogs for the latest updates and announcements. Parents can also use ParentSquare to stay connected with the Emerson community.

Together, we’re building a stronger, brighter future—brick by brick.



MTSS Conference Attendees



First Day of School 2025



CBEDS DAY 2025

Richard Garvey *Intermediate School*

2720 N. Jackson Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3385 • garveyint.garvey.k12.ca.us



David Alarcon
Principal

Exciting New Opportunities at Garvey Intermediate

My name is Mr. Alarcon, and I am proud to serve as the Principal of Garvey Intermediate School. Having grown up in Rosemead, it is truly an honor to give back to the community that helped shape who I am today. This is my 11th year as an administrator at Garvey Intermediate and my 25th year in the Garvey School District. I am incredibly proud to lead such a dedicated team of teachers and staff who are deeply committed to the success and well-being of every student.

At Garvey Intermediate, we are excited to offer new and enriching academic opportunities for our students. We now provide Honors courses in Language Arts and Math for advanced learners, as well as a Dual Enrollment program in partnership with East Los Angeles College (ELAC), allowing students to earn college credit in Mandarin and Spanish. In addition, we offer a variety of engaging electives designed to spark students' creativity and curiosity, including Art, Band, Choir, Drama, and STEM.

This year marks Mrs. McDonald's fifth year as Assistant Principal at Garvey Intermediate and her 28th year in education. She continues to build strong relationships with staff, students, and parents through her positive leadership and creative approach. Mrs. McDonald brings fun and collaboration to our campus through activities such as puzzles and Bingo at staff meetings, and she continues to expand our vibrant ASB program with more clubs and after-school opportunities for students. She is looking forward to organizing the new Trimester event "Mustangs on the Move." She believes building relationships and community are what motivates many kids and staff to love

coming to school and she enjoys being part of the "fun" at Garvey. She can barely remember the many years of other school mascots, and looks forward to being a Mustang for many years to come.

Mustang Pride!



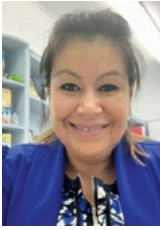
Mr. Alarcon with our Garvey Mustang Mascot!



Mrs. McDonald celebrating with our ASB fundraiser top sellers!

Hillcrest Elementary School

795 Pepper St., Monterey Park, CA 91755 • 626/307-3371 • hillcrest.garvey.k12.ca.us



Dr. Laura Quintana
Principal

New Academic Year, New Opportunities

Hello, Ni hao, my name is Dr. Laura Quintana, the principal of Hillcrest Elementary. This year marks my 28th year in the field of education! I began my career as an Elementary School Teacher where I taught

Grades 2 through 5. I also taught High School level U.S History and AP World History. I have served as an AVID Advisor, Instructional Coach, Program Specialist, High School Assistant Principal, and Middle School Principal. I hold a B.A. degree from Smith College, a Masters degree from Whittier College, and a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University. I enjoy traveling, love reading mystery books, watching PBS Masterpiece, and going to Dodger Baseball games. I am an advocate for instilling a passion for life-long learning in all students. I firmly believe students need to be engaged in active learning everyday through Project Based Learning, interdisciplinary studies, WICOR strategies, the 7 Habits, and civic education.



At Hillcrest, we take pride in providing students with a rigorous curriculum and a variety of enrichment opportunities. Students can develop leadership skills and their creativity through Associated Student Body, Lighthouse Kids, Husky Ambassadors, and Visual and Performing Arts. Hillcrest takes pride in our distinguished K-6 Dual Language + Program. Dual Language students spend half the day in Mandarin instruction and half the day in English instruction.

Because we believe in the value of being a multicultural and multilingual community, our Dual Language students have the opportunity to learn Spanish as part of their weekly instruction.

Hillcrest Elementary has a college and career going culture too! Not only are we a strong Leader in Me School, but we are also AVID Certified in grades 3 - 6. We have been recognized by the California Coalition for our award winning Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports program and last year we had the honor of being selected as a School Tour Site for the Leader in Me West Coast Symposium. Hillcrest is where personal growth matters and the spirit of leadership thrives! We are committed to developing greatness in each student.



Student Leaders in Action

Monterey Vista *Elementary School*

901 E. Graves Ave., Monterey Park, CA 91755 • 626/307-3300 • mvista.garvey.k12.ca.us



Hing Chow
Principal

Monterey Vista Celebrates its 100th Anniversary

I would like to welcome the Monterey Vista and Garvey communities to our school and the 25-26 school year. Before we do this, I would like to introduce myself, Mr. Hing Chow, as the principal of Monterey Vista Elementary School. I am proud to have served as the principal of our school since 2003 and I can't believe that this is my 23rd year. I guess the saying "Time flies when you're having fun" is correct. Prior to coming to Monterey Vista, I have served in the capacity of math teacher and assistant principal at Temple Intermediate School and as principal of John Marshall Elementary School. Those experiences have not only enriched my professional career, but it also enhanced my personal experience from all the students, parents, teachers and staff who have enriched my personal life as all of those stakeholders made me a full and well-rounded individual. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, attending sporting events (baseball, football, basketball) and traveling. My family and I have visited 28 states and counting.

Monterey Vista is an amazing place where all staff have high expectations for all students by providing a quality first education that utilizes researched based strategies, such as Thinking Maps, Write from the Beginning, GLAD, high rigor/DOK levels to ensure the success of every student who enters our door. Monterey Vista had the honor to be recognized as a California Distinguished School three times and twice as National Blue Ribbon School.

My vision for Monterey Vista Elementary School for 2025-2026 is for all students to show growth, to learn real-world relevant high interest topics and to be fully engaged in learning daily in all classrooms. I invite the community to visit our classrooms and see our outstanding teachers and students in action.

This year is also a special year for Monterey Vista. We will be celebrating a centennial (100th anniversary) of the school. There are many exciting activities planned for this special event. We will use this to provide additional learning opportunities for our students about how the last 100 years shaped history and the world we live in. There will be information provided to the school community regarding this special celebration.

Have an enjoyable, memorable 2025-2026 school year !!!



Mr. Chow and wife Linda enjoy an Angels baseball game



Monterey Vista welcomes everyone back for 25-26 school year

Eldridge Rice *Elementary School*

2150 N. Angelus Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3348 • rice.garvey.k12.ca.us



Judy Gonzales
Principal

Greetings from Rice Elementary!

Welcome to a new year filled with exceptional opportunities at Rice Elementary! My name is Judy Gonzales, and I'm honored to serve as the principal of our school. Growing up in East Los Angeles and Montebello as the eldest of nine children, I was the first in my family to pursue higher education. I earned my Bachelor's Degree from UCLA and my Master's, as well as my teaching and administrative credentials, from Cal State Los Angeles. With over 35 years of experience in teaching and administration from preschool through 12th grade, I have had the privilege of supporting students in various roles at different educational levels.

My passion lies in ensuring that every student who leaves Rice Elementary does so confidently, equipped with the academic knowledge, communication skills, critical thinking abilities, leadership qualities, and social-emotional skills essential for pursuing their dreams.

On a personal note, I treasure the time spent with my husband of thirty years, our three children, my beloved "Nephson," family, friends, and our wonderful pets, Achilles and Coco. I also love exploring diverse cultures through travel and enjoy hiking adventures.

At Rice Elementary, we are committed to educating and inspiring our students to develop the skills necessary for future success. We provide a welcoming, safe environment, along with rigorous, engaging learning opportunities that foster a college-going culture. Our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework, Leader In Me, and AVID, guide our student expectations.

We are thrilled to announce our recent award of a Community Schools Partnership Grant, reflecting our dedication and collaboration with stakeholders to enhance our school and respond to the needs of our community. Our hardworking team is excited to make this an unforgettable year for everyone at Rice Elementary!



Rice Rockets are Wild About College!



Rice Teachers and Staff, excited to make a difference in 25-26!

George I. Sanchez *Elementary School*

8470 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3368 • sanchez.garvey.k12.ca.us



Dr. Robert J. Boyd III
Principal

Hello Everyone!

My name is Dr. Robert James Boyd III and I am proud to return as principal for my second year at George Sanchez Elementary School. We are part of the Garvey School District in Rosemead, California. We serve an ethnically diverse student population, and take pride in being a place where children can blossom in a safe, clean and fun learning environment. To meet this end, we offer our students

and families a variety of services such as Quality First Instruction, ASB Events, Woodcraft Rangers and more.

We are also an AVID and PBIS school. Most importantly, our staff focuses on making connections with students as individuals. We believe that these personal connections boost the self-esteem of students and promote social-emotional wellness – all necessary for student academic success.

Here is a little information about me. I was born and raised in South Los Angeles. I am the youngest of six children, raised by my father who worked for the City of Los Angeles, and my mother, who was

an elementary school teacher for over 25 years. Before going into education, I served in the U.S. Navy. My wife and I have five children (three of them attended Sanchez Elementary). I am also a part-time college professor. In my spare time, I enjoy playing golf, video games, and watching sports.

We are off to a great start, and are looking forward to building from it and making the 2025-2026 school year one of our best. This is why we say, “Sanchez Eagles S.O.A.R.”



Sanchez students enjoy the enrichment activities that take place outside of the classroom.



The Award-Winning Sanchez Eagles Cheer Team

Roger W. Temple *Intermediate School*

8510 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3360 • templeint.garvey.k12.ca.us



Dr. Robert J. Boyd III
Principal

Hello Everyone!

My name is Dr. Robert James Boyd III and I am proud to return as principal for my tenth year at Temple Intermediate School. We are part of the Garvey School District in Rosemead, California. We serve an ethnically diverse student population, and take pride in being a place where seventh grade and eighth grade students prepare for their transition to high school. To

meet this end, we offer our students and families Quality First Instruction and an assortment of extracurricular activities. Among our school day, and after school programs are AVID, Science Olympiad Team, National History Day Team, Student Leadership (ASB), Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA), and Athletics. We are also a PBIS school. Our school culture focuses on guiding students to take the lead in their educational journey and to value a healthy balance of hard work, laughter and recreation.

Here is a little information about me. I was born and raised in South Los Angeles. I am the youngest of six children, raised by my father who worked for the City of Los Angeles, and my mother, who was an elementary school teacher for over 25 years.

Before going into education, I served in the U.S. Navy. My wife and I have five children (three of them attended Temple Intermediate). I am also a part-time college professor. In my spare time, I enjoy playing golf, video games, and watching sports.

We are excited about the new opportunities ahead of us in the 2025-2026 school year. We will make the most of them by living out our motto, "Temple Knights R.I.D.E."



The California State Champion Temple Intermediate History Day Team



Temple AVID students California Attorney General, Rob Bonta

Frances Willard *Elementary School*

3152 N. Willard Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3375 • willard.garvey.k12.ca.us



Rosette Holmes
Principal

A Joyful Start to the School Year!

We've had an exciting and enriching beginning to the school year at Willard Elementary!

In September, our 4th through 6th grade students had the incredible opportunity to become history detectives. Thanks to a special visit from the Autry Museum of the American West. Right inside their classrooms, students engaged in hands-on learning experiences facilitated by the

knowledgeable museum staff. The Autry team brought a fascinating collection of historical objects, allowing students to analyze real artifacts and explore the stories of the American West. This student-driven experience sparked curiosity and deepened their understanding of history in a truly memorable way.

We also celebrated our Leader in Me Assembly for the month of September. During this uplifting event, we recognized students who demonstrated kindness both inside and outside the classroom. In addition, one student from each class was honored for exemplifying the leadership trait of Being Proactive. We were especially proud to hear heartfelt speeches from these students, sharing how they practice proactive behaviors in their daily lives. Their words were inspiring and a true reflection of the leadership values we nurture at Willard.

Our school empowers all students to succeed through high expectations, caring staff, and a commitment to helping every child reach their full potential.

Thank you to our incredible Willard community of parents and staff—your continued support helps make Willard a place where students grow with confidence, lead with purpose, and thrive academically. We look forward to sharing more joyful moments with you throughout the year!



Leader In Me Assembly



Gene Autry Historical Museum Lesson