

School News

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Covering the Garden Grove Unified School District



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GGUSD Kicks Off New School Year Centered on Student Success



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Superintendent



Dr. Gabriela Mafi
Superintendent

New School Year Fuels Continued Success

We kicked off the 2025-26 school year with great momentum thanks to the incredible dedication of our teachers and staff, whose unwavering commitment to every student's academic growth and personal development is setting students up for lifelong success. This school year marks our 60th anniversary and there is much to celebrate as we remain focused on continual improvement.

Goal 1: Academic Skills

We continue to strengthen proven instructional strategies that lead to successful outcomes. This year, we celebrate our continued success of outperforming the county and state on SBAC scores and achieving pre-pandemic scores across several areas. We continue to use data to develop targeted support to ensure students receive the help they need through direct instruction and before and after-school extended learning. We are pleased to receive a second, nearly \$2 million, grant to extend our school-based literacy coaches who are now working at nine elementary campuses across the district to improve those foundational reading and writing skills.

Goal 2: Personal Skills

At the start of the school year, we were notified by the California PBIS Coalition that they recognized 28 GGUSD schools for leading the way in using PBIS strategies to foster supportive and encouraging learning environments that result in positive student behavior.

We are proud to have received a total of \$32.3 million in state grant funding, allowing us to expand our Community Schools initiatives to 22 campuses. The Community Schools model is a powerful tool that drives student-centered transformation and results in stronger school communities. Our Community Schools, through the leadership of site-based Community Schools Teacher Coaches, are doing a fantastic job deepening collaboration to implement targeted strategies that help meet the unique needs at each school.

Goal 3: Lifelong Success

Everything we do is aimed at preparing our students for lifelong success. Our third goal outlines our commitment to college and career readiness. We are thrilled that our a-g rates, the percentage of students meeting rigorous college entrance requirements, hit a historic high of 65.1%. Our students continue to rise to high expectations with an impressive 81% pass rate on Advanced Placement exams, which is higher than the county, state and world average. Our college readiness success is due to the dedicated work of our teachers, staff and counselors, as well as many important initiatives such as 9th Grade On Track which ensures our freshman get off to a strong start. This year, we continue to focus on strengthening and growing our CTE Career Pathways and celebrated the launch of our new Skilled Trades Career Pathway at Rancho Alamitos High School. This four-year program will prepare students in the fields of construction, electrical, welding and more.

In August, U.S. News and World Report published its annual rankings of America's Best High Schools and all seven of GGUSD's comprehensive high schools ranked in the top 25% nationally, with La Quinta High School coming in at #63 in California!

The 2025-26 school year has already been filled with wonderful Back to School Nights, festive Hispanic Heritage celebrations, and dozens of family events, club activities and athletic competitions. As we celebrate 60 years as an exemplary district, the 2025-26 school year stands as a powerful testament to what's possible when a community is united around a shared vision for student success. From academic achievement and personal growth to college, career, and life readiness, our students are thriving because of the unwavering dedication of our teachers, staff, families, and community partners.

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Superintendent



Dr. Gabriela Mafi
Superintendent

Un Nuevo año Escolar Impulsa el Éxito Continuo

Iniciamos el año escolar 2025-2026 con gran impulso, gracias a la increíble dedicación de nuestros maestros y el personal, cuyo firme compromiso con el crecimiento académico y el desarrollo personal de cada alumno, los está preparando para alcanzar el éxito de por vida. Este año escolar marca nuestro 60.º aniversario y tenemos mucho que celebrar, ya que seguimos enfocándonos en mejorar continuamente.

Meta 1: Habilidades Académicas

Seguimos fortaleciendo las estrategias de instrucción que han sido comprobadas y que conducen a resultados exitosos. Este año celebramos nuestro éxito continuo de haber superado los promedios del condado y del estado en los puntajes de los exámenes del Consorcio de Evaluaciones Smarter Balanced (SBAC), además de alcanzar niveles de rendimiento previos a la pandemia en varias áreas. Continuamos utilizando los datos para desarrollar el apoyo específico que garantice que los alumnos reciban la ayuda necesaria a través de la instrucción directa y los programas de aprendizaje extendido antes y después del horario regular de clases. Nos complace haber recibido una segunda subvención de casi \$2 millones, para ampliar los servicios de nuestros instructores de alfabetización basados en las escuelas, quienes ahora trabajan en nueve escuelas primarias del Distrito para mejorar las habilidades fundamentales de lectura y escritura.

Meta 2: Habilidades Personales

Al inicio del año escolar, la Coalición de las Intervenciones y Apoyos para el Comportamiento Positivo (PBIS) de California nos notificó que 28 escuelas del GGUSD fueron reconocidas por ser líderes en la implementación de estrategias de PBIS para fomentar ambientes de aprendizaje solidarios y motivadores, que resulten comportamientos positivos en los alumnos.

Nos enorgullece haber recibido un total de \$32.3 millones en fondos de subvenciones estatales, lo que nos permite ampliar nuestras iniciativas de Escuelas Comunitarias en 22 planteles escolares. El modelo para las Escuelas Comunitarias es una herramienta eficaz que impulsa la transformación centrada en el alumno y que resulta en comunidades escolares más sólidas. Nuestras Escuelas Comunitarias, bajo el liderazgo de los instructores de maestros de Escuelas Comunitarias en cada plantel escolar, están haciendo un trabajo sobresaliente al profundizar la colaboración para implementar estrategias específicas que ayuden a satisfacer las necesidades únicas de cada escuela.

Meta 3: Éxito de por Vida

Todo lo que hacemos tiene como objetivo preparar a nuestros alumnos para el éxito de por vida. Nuestra tercera meta refleja nuestro compromiso con la preparación universitaria y para una carrera profesional. Estamos muy contentos de que nuestros índices de los requisitos A-G, el porcentaje de alumnos que cumplen con los rigurosos requisitos de admisión universitaria, alcanzaron un alto porcentaje histórico del 65.1%. Nuestros alumnos continúan respondiendo a las altas expectativas con un impresionante índice de aprobación del 81% en los exámenes de Asignación Avanzada, el cual es más alto que el promedio del condado, del estado y a nivel mundial. Nuestro éxito en la preparación universitaria se debe al trabajo dedicado de nuestros maestros, el personal y los consejeros escolares, así como muchas iniciativas importantes como 9th Grade On Track, que garantiza que nuestros alumnos del noveno grado tengan un buen comienzo escolar. Este año seguimos enfocados en fortalecer y ampliar nuestras trayectorias de Educación Técnica y de Carreras Profesionales (CTE) y celebramos el lanzamiento de nuestra nueva Trayectoria de Carreras en Oficios Especializados en la Escuela Secundaria Rancho Alamitos. Este programa de cuatro años preparará a los alumnos en los campos de la construcción, electricidad, soldadura y más.

En el mes de agosto, U.S. News & World Report publicó sus clasificaciones anuales de las Mejores Escuelas Secundarias de los Estados Unidos, y las siete escuelas secundarias integrales del GGUSD clasificaron dentro del 25% de las mejores escuelas a nivel nacional, ¡con la Escuela Secundaria La Quinta alcanzando el lugar #63 en California!

El año escolar 2025-2026 ya ha estado lleno de maravillosas Noches de Orientación para Padres (Back to School Nights), celebraciones festivas del Mes de la Herencia Hispana y docenas de eventos familiares, actividades de clubes y competencias deportivas. A medida que celebramos los 60 años como un distrito ejemplar, el año escolar 2025-2026 se destaca como un poderoso testimonio de lo que es posible cuando una comunidad se une en torno a una visión compartida para lograr el éxito estudiantil. Desde el logro académico y el desarrollo personal hasta la preparación universitaria, para una carrera profesional y para la vida, nuestros alumnos están prosperando gracias a la firme dedicación de nuestros maestros, el personal, las familias y los socios comunitarios.

Superintendent



Dr. Gabriela Mafi
Superintendent

Tiếp Nối Đà Thành Công Trong Niên Học Mới

Năm học 2025-26 khởi đầu với đà thăng tiến vững vàng nhờ vào sự tận tụy và quyết tâm kiên định của đội ngũ giáo viên và nhân viên chúng ta, những người hết lòng hỗ trợ mọi học sinh phát triển năng lực học tập và năng lực cá nhân nhằm gặt hái thành công trên đường đời. Năm nay cũng đánh dấu 60 năm kỷ niệm chặng đường thành lập GGUSD với nhiều niềm hân diện, cùng nỗ lực không ngừng thăng tiến.

Mục Tiêu 1: Năng Lực Học Tập

Chúng tôi tiếp tục phát huy các phương pháp giảng dạy hiệu quả nhằm mang lại thành quả cho học sinh. Năm nay, chúng ta tiếp tục vượt trội tỷ lệ trung bình của hạt và tiểu bang về điểm thi SBAC, đồng thời khôi phục lại điểm hạng trong nhiều lĩnh vực trước kỳ đại dịch. Chúng tôi sẽ dựa trên dữ liệu để tiếp tục hỗ trợ với các chương trình đặc biệt nhằm bảo đảm cho các em được giúp đỡ trực tiếp trong giờ học và chương trình học thêm vào trước hoặc sau giờ học. Ngoài ra, chúng tôi rất vui mừng khi được cấp thêm khoản tài trợ thứ hai, trị giá gần \$2 triệu Mỹ Kim để tuyển thêm các nhân viên hiện đang kèm giúp học sinh phát triển kỹ năng đọc, viết căn bản tại 9 trường tiểu học trong toàn học khu.

Mục Tiêu 2: Năng Lực Cá Nhân

Vào đầu năm học, Liên Hội PBIS California đã gửi thông báo cho biết 28 trường của GGUSD được tuyên dương với thành tích dẫn đầu trong việc áp dụng các phương pháp PBIS nhằm xây dựng môi trường học đường hỗ trợ và khích lệ, đồng thời giúp học sinh phát huy hạnh kiểm tích cực.

Chúng tôi rất hân diện khi nhận được quỹ tài trợ của tiểu bang với tổng giá trị lên đến \$32.3 triệu Mỹ Kim, tạo điều kiện cho việc thực hiện đề xuất Các Trường Học Cộng Đồng tại 22 trường trong toàn học khu. Đây là một mô hình hiệu quả, đặt trọng tâm vào quyền lợi của học sinh và góp phần xây dựng cộng đồng trường học ngày càng vững mạnh hơn. Dưới sự điều hành của Nhóm Giáo Viên Chuyên Nhiệm Đặc Trách Các Trường Cộng Đồng tại từng cơ sở, các Trường Học Cộng Đồng của chúng ta đang đảm nhận mỹ mãn nhiệm vụ phối hợp chặt chẽ để thực hiện những phương pháp cụ thể, nhằm đáp ứng nhu cầu riêng của từng trường.

Mục Tiêu 3: Thành Công Trên Đường Đời

Mọi nỗ lực của chúng tôi đều nhằm vào mục đích chuẩn bị cho con em học sinh thành công trên đường đời, thể hiện rõ qua mục tiêu thứ ba của học khu trong việc quyết tâm giúp các em sẵn sàng vào đại học và chọn ngành nghề. Chúng tôi rất vui khi tỷ lệ A-G (điều kiện tuyển sinh cam go để vào các trường đại học) đã đạt kỷ lục ở mức 65.1%. Các em học sinh của chúng ta tiếp tục đạt thành tích vượt trội với tỷ lệ đậu các kỳ thi AP (Các Lớp Thuộc Trình Độ Cao) lên đến 81%, cao hơn tỷ lệ trung bình của hạt, tiểu bang và cả thế giới. Nhờ có sự nỗ lực tận tâm của đội ngũ giáo viên, nhân viên và giáo viên tư vấn, chúng ta đã đạt thành công trong việc chuẩn bị cho học sinh vào đại học, cùng với nhiều sáng kiến quan trọng như giúp các học sinh lớp 9 khởi đầu bậc trung học được vững vàng với Chương Trình Đi Đúng Hướng (9th Grade On Track). Năm nay, chúng tôi tiếp tục chú trọng vào việc phát triển Chương Trình Giáo Dục Kỹ Thuật và Hướng Nghiệp (CTE Career Pathways), tổ chức lễ giới thiệu chương trình Chương Trình Hướng Nghiệp mới tại Trường Trung Học Cấp II Rancho Alamitos. Đây là chương trình kéo dài bốn năm nhằm trang bị cho học sinh kiến thức và kỹ năng trong các lĩnh vực như xây dựng, điện, hàn xì và nhiều ngành nghề khác. Trong kỳ xếp hạng thường niên Những Trường Trung Học Cấp II Xuất Sắc tại Hoa Kỳ vào tháng 8 của Tạp Chí U.S. News & World Report (Tin Tức Hoa Kỳ và Thông Tin Thế Giới), cả 7 trường trung học phổ thông cấp II GGUSD đều được xếp vào hàng 25% các trường ưu hạng trên toàn quốc. Trường Trung Học Cấp II La Quinta được xếp hạng #63 tại California!

Năm học 2025–2026 diễn ra sôi nổi với nhiều sinh hoạt ý nghĩa như buổi ‘Back to School Night’ (Gặp Gỡ Giáo Viên Sau Ngày Tựu Trường), các ngày hội đề cao Tháng Di Sản Văn Hoá Tây Ban Nha, cùng hàng chục chương trình dành cho gia đình, các câu lạc bộ sinh hoạt và giải thi đấu thể thao. Năm học 2025–2026 đánh dấu 60 năm phát triển với danh hiệu học khu kiểu mẫu và khẳng định sức mạnh của một cộng đồng đoàn kết khi cùng hướng đến một mục tiêu chung - giúp con em học sinh thành công. Nhờ có sự quyết tâm kiên định của đội ngũ giáo viên, nhân viên, sự hợp tác của gia đình và các cơ quan trong cộng đồng, con em học sinh chúng ta đang gặt hái thành quả về mặt học vấn, vào đại học, chọn ngành nghề và sẵn sàng vào đời.



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Raising Emotionally Resilient Kids: What Parents and Educators Should Know

Emotional resilience is the ability to bounce back from hardships with hope, reflection, and problem-solving skills. For children, this means navigating tough situations such as peer conflicts, academic stress, or sports tryouts, and returning to their natural state of curiosity and play, armed with lessons learned. Emotionally resilient kids can think critically, respond calmly, and avoid reacting out of fear or pressure.

Those who raise emotionally resilient children often:

- Model healthy coping strategies
- Validate their children's emotions
- Encourage autonomy and decision-making
- Promote a growth mindset
- Seek support and community when needed

For caregivers who wish to strengthen these traits, the journey begins with self-care. Just as one must secure their own oxygen mask before assisting others in case of an emergency on an airplane, adults must nurture their own emotional resilience to effectively support their children. Strategies include stress management, building social support networks, cultivating self-efficacy, practicing cognitive flexibility, and ensuring access

to resources and a balanced environment.

Language also plays a critical role. Phrases such as "That was a tough situation, can we talk about it?" or "Mistakes mean your brain is learning" foster emotional safety and growth. Encouraging autonomy with "What are some ideas you have to fix this?" and reinforcing effort with "You worked so hard, I'm proud of you" builds confidence and resilience.

It's equally important to avoid language that shames or blames. Harsh tones, guilt-inducing comments, or unrealistic expectations can hinder a child's ability to recover and grow from difficult experiences. Resilience functions like a gas tank of a car — it must be regularly refilled through encouragement, emotional safety, and opportunities for growth without judgment.

Through encouragement, modeling, and safe emotional spaces, children can grow into kind, flexible, and emotionally strong individuals who are ready to face life's challenges with grace.



Scan to learn tips about how to support teens in developing healthy self-esteem



Pablo, Age 6

At 11 months, Pablo was fighting for his life.

Today, he's got six candles on his cake.

Failing organs. Eight months in a coma. Fighting for every breath. At 11 months old, this is what Leukemia brought Pablo. The one bright spot, he was at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital where a team of top doctors, nurses, and specialists helped save his life. For over a year in the PICU, our highly-trained staff never stopped caring for Pablo and his family. **Caring is our calling.**

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Celebrating 60 Years as an Exemplary District

As your Board of Education, we are proud to celebrate a milestone in our district's remarkable journey—GGUSD's 60th anniversary. This moment provides an opportunity not only to reflect on our deep roots, but also to recognize the unwavering commitment to student success that has defined Garden Grove Unified School District since its founding.

Education in Garden Grove dates back to 1874, when a small group of students gathered in a single schoolhouse purchased by Garden Grove's founding father, Alonzo Cook. At the time, the community was rural and modest in size. However, with the arrival of the Pacific Electric Railroad in 1905 and the post-World War II housing boom, our city began to grow—and so did the demand for quality education.

To meet this need, multiple school districts were formed to serve the expanding population. Then, in July 1965, a pivotal step was taken: the unification of Alamitos Elementary, Garden Grove Elementary, and Garden Grove Union High School districts into what is now the Garden Grove Unified School District.

Between 1950 and 1973, more than 40 elementary schools, 10 intermediate schools, and 6 high schools were built, shaping the educational landscape of our community. Today, GGUSD proudly serves nearly 37,000 students across 67 campuses in five cities, standing as the third-largest district in Orange County and one of the most dynamic in the region.

The success and stability of our district have been anchored by strong leadership. Our Board of Education is a representation of stability, with current members having served from 9 to 30 years - united by a shared commitment to putting students first and working collaboratively to ensure all learners have access to a high-quality education.

Similarly, GGUSD has benefited from steady district leadership, with only seven superintendents in our 60-year history—four of whom served during the last 51 years.

This continuity has led to transformative results and is even featured as a model of educational coherence in Michael Fullan's book, *Coherence*.

Over the decades, GGUSD has earned a reputation for excellence. In 2004, we were honored with the Broad Prize for Urban Education, naming us the top urban school district in the nation. We've also been recognized as Orange County's first California Exemplary District and have received 66 California Distinguished Schools awards, among many other accolades.

Our students consistently defy the odds—outperforming county and state averages in academic achievement, graduation rates, and college readiness. But success in GGUSD goes far beyond academics. Our student-athletes have brought home more than 160 CIF championships, Olympic gold medals, and national titles.

We are especially proud that our district's excellence is fueled by the dedication of our staff—many of whom are GGUSD graduates themselves. These homegrown educators and professionals have returned to serve in the very communities where they were raised, continuing a powerful tradition of giving back.

From humble beginnings to a high-performing district with a legacy of achievement, GGUSD's story is one of growth, resilience, and an unshakable focus on preparing students to be lifelong learners and global citizens.

As we celebrate our 60th anniversary throughout the 2025-26 school year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our families, alumni, community members, and partners. Your unwavering support, involvement, and partnership over the decades have played a vital role in shaping the success of our schools and students. It is because of your commitment to education and your belief in our mission that GGUSD continues to thrive. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey—past, present, and future.

Board of Education

Celebrando 60 Años como un Distrito Ejemplar

Como su Mesa Directiva de Educación, nos enorgullece celebrar un acontecimiento en el notable trayecto de nuestro Distrito: el 60.º aniversario del GGUSD. Este momento nos brinda la oportunidad no solo de reflexionar sobre nuestras profundas raíces, sino también de reconocer el compromiso firme con el éxito estudiantil que ha caracterizado al Distrito Escolar Unificado de Garden Grove desde su fundación.

La educación en Garden Grove se remonta al año 1874, cuando un pequeño grupo de alumnos se reunió en una sola escuela adquirida por el fundador de Garden Grove, Alonzo Cook. En ese entonces, la comunidad era rural y de tamaño modesto. Sin embargo, con la llegada del Ferrocarril Eléctrico del Pacífico en el año 1905 y la expansión de la vivienda tras la Segunda Guerra Mundial, nuestra ciudad comenzó a crecer y con ella, la demanda de una educación de calidad.

Para cumplir con esta necesidad, se formaron varios distritos escolares para brindar servicio a la población en expansión. Luego, en julio de 1965, se dio un paso decisivo: la unificación de la Escuela Primaria Alamitos, la Escuela Primaria Garden Grove, y el Distrito Unido de Escuelas Secundarias de Garden Grove, en lo que hoy es el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Garden Grove.

Entre los años 1950 y 1973 se construyeron más de 40 escuelas primarias, 10 escuelas intermedias y 6 escuelas secundarias, dando forma al panorama educativo de nuestra comunidad. Hoy en día, el GGUSD se enorgullece de brindar servicios a casi 37,000 alumnos en 67 planteles escolares en cinco ciudades, siendo el tercer distrito más grande del Condado de Orange y uno de los más dinámicos de la región.

El éxito y la estabilidad de nuestro Distrito se han sostenido gracias a un liderazgo sólido. Nuestra Mesa Directiva de Educación es un reflejo de estabilidad, con miembros actuales que han servido entre 9 y 30 años, unidos por un compromiso compartido de poner a los alumnos primero y de trabajar de manera colaborativa para garantizar que todos los alumnos tengan acceso a una educación de alta calidad.

De manera similar, el GGUSD se ha beneficiado de un estable liderazgo de distrito, con solo siete superintendentes en nuestros 60 años de historia, cuatro de los cuales brindaron sus servicios durante los últimos 51 años. Esta continuidad ha generado resultados

transformadores e incluso se destaca como un modelo de coherencia educativa en el libro *Coherence* de Michael Fullan.

A lo largo de las décadas, el GGUSD ha ganado una reputación por su excelencia. En el 2004, fuimos honrados con el Premio Broad para la Educación Urbana, reconociéndonos como el mejor distrito escolar urbano del país. También hemos sido reconocidos como el primer Distrito Ejemplar de California del Condado de Orange y hemos recibido 66 premios de Escuelas Distinguidas de California, entre muchos otros reconocimientos.

Nuestros alumnos consistentemente desafían los obstáculos, superando los promedios del condado y del estado en el rendimiento académico, los índices de graduación y de preparación universitaria. Pero el éxito en el GGUSD va mucho más allá de lo académico. Nuestros alumnos deportistas han ganado más de 160 campeonatos de la Federación Interescolar de California (CIF), medallas de oro olímpicas y títulos nacionales.

Nos sentimos especialmente orgullosos de que la excelencia de nuestro Distrito se vea impulsada por la dedicación de nuestro personal, muchos de los cuales son exalumnos graduados del GGUSD. Estos educadores y profesionales formados en el Distrito han regresado para brindar servicios en las mismas comunidades en donde ellos crecieron, continuando una fuerte tradición de retribución.

Desde sus humildes comienzos hasta convertirse en un Distrito de alto rendimiento con un legado de logros, la historia del GGUSD es una de crecimiento, resiliencia y un enfoque firme en preparar a los alumnos para que continúen educándose durante sus vidas y sean ciudadanos globales.

A medida que celebramos nuestro 60.º aniversario durante el año escolar 2025-26, queremos expresar nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a nuestras familias, exalumnos, miembros de la comunidad y socios. Su apoyo incondicional, participación y colaboración a lo largo de las décadas han desempeñado un papel fundamental en el éxito de nuestras escuelas y alumnos. Gracias a su compromiso con la educación y su convicción en nuestra misión, el GGUSD sigue prosperando. Muchas gracias por ser una parte esencial de nuestro recorrido en el pasado, el presente y el futuro.

Board of Education

Kỷ Niệm 60 Năm Vươn Đến Danh Hiệu Học Khu Kiểu Mẫu

Trong vai trò Hội Đồng Giáo Dục, chúng tôi hãnh diện khi kỷ niệm 60 năm hành trình thành lập và phát triển vượt bậc của Khu Học Chính Garden Grove. Đây không chỉ là dịp để chúng ta nhìn lại nền tảng vững chắc, mà còn là cơ hội để tán dương cam kết kiên định trong việc giúp con em học hành thành công. Điềm này đã gắn liền với danh tiếng của GGUSD kể từ những ngày đầu thành lập.

Khởi đầu từ năm 1874, một nhóm nhỏ học sinh tụ họp tại ngôi trường duy nhất lúc bấy giờ do ông Alonzo Cook, người sáng lập thành phố Garden Grove đã mua lại. Vào thời điểm đó, cộng đồng còn thưa thớt và thuộc vùng nông thôn. Tuy nhiên, khi tuyến đường sắt Pacific Electric được thành lập vào năm 1905 và sự phát triển kế hoạch xây dựng nhà ở sau Thế Chiến Thứ Hai, thành phố này bắt đầu phát triển mạnh mẽ song song với nhu cầu giáo dục phẩm chất cao.

Để đáp ứng nhu cầu này, nhiều học khu đã được thành lập để phục vụ dân số ngày càng tăng. Đến tháng 7 năm 1965, một bước ngoặt quan trọng đã diễn ra - sự sát nhập giữa Trường Tiểu Học Alamitos, Trường Tiểu Học Garden Grove và Khu Học Chính Trung Học Garden Grove, đã tạo nên Khu Học Chính Garden Grove ngày nay.

Từ năm 1950 đến 1973, trên 40 trường tiểu học, 10 trường trung học cấp I và 6 trường trung học cấp II đã được xây dựng, góp phần xác định hệ thống giáo dục của cộng đồng chúng ta. Ngày nay, GGUSD hãnh diện khi phục vụ gần 37,000 học sinh tại 67 trường trải rộng trong 5 thành phố, trở thành học khu lớn thứ ba trong Hạt Orange và một trong những học khu lớn mạnh nhất trong khu vực.

Nhờ vào sự lãnh đạo tài tình mà học khu chúng ta luôn phát triển vững vàng và đạt thành công. Hội Đồng Giáo Dục của chúng ta tượng trưng cho tinh thần lãnh đạo trường kỳ với thời gian phục vụ của các ủy viên đương nhiệm từ 9 đến 30 năm, cùng quyết tâm đặt học sinh làm ưu tiên hàng đầu và hợp tác chặt chẽ để bảo đảm cho mọi học sinh đều được hưởng nền giáo dục phẩm chất cao.

Tương tự, GGUSD đã phát triển vững mạnh dưới sự lãnh đạo trường kỳ với chỉ bảy học khu trưởng trong thời gian 60 năm—trong số này bốn vị đã phục vụ suốt 51 năm qua. Chính sự tiếp nối này đã tạo nên những chuyển biến mạnh mẽ và mô hình về sự thống nhất này cũng được giới thiệu trong cuốn sách Coherence của tác giả Michael Fullan.

Trong nhiều thập niên qua, GGUSD đã đạt danh hiệu là một học khu xuất sắc. Năm 2004, chúng tôi được tuyên dương với giải thưởng Broad Prize for Urban Education, công nhận GGUSD là học khu đô thị hàng đầu trên toàn quốc. Chúng tôi cũng tự hào là học khu đầu tiên trong Hạt Orange đạt danh hiệu Học Khu Kiểu Mẫu, nhận 66 giải thưởng Các Trường Ưu Tú của California, cùng nhiều danh hiệu cao quý khác.

Học sinh của chúng ta luôn vượt qua những khó khăn, thử thách — luôn vượt trội tỷ lệ trung bình của các học khu trong quận hạt và toàn tiểu bang về thành quả học vấn, tỷ lệ tốt nghiệp và sẵn sàng vào đại học. Tuy nhiên, sự thành công của GGUSD không chỉ giới hạn trong lĩnh vực học thuật. Các học sinh tham gia chương trình thể thao đã mang về hơn 160 giải vô địch CIF, huy chương vàng Olympic và nhiều danh hiệu quốc gia danh giá.

Chúng tôi vô cùng hãnh diện về đội ngũ nhân viên tận tụy đã góp phần xây dựng thành tựu cho học khu. Trong số này nhiều nhân viên đã từng là học sinh tốt nghiệp của GGUSD, thành đạt và trở về nơi các em đã sinh trưởng để phục vụ trong vai trò nhà giáo và chuyên gia để tiếp nối truyền thống cao đẹp qua sự cống hiến cho thế hệ tương lai.

Từ sự khởi đầu khiêm tốn đến vị thế xuất sắc với nhiều thành tích nổi bật, GGUSD là hành trình của sự lớn mạnh, ý chí kiên cường và quyết tâm không lay chuyển trong việc trang bị cho con em hành trang để trở thành những công dân ham học và có ích trên toàn cầu.

Nhân dịp kỷ niệm 60 năm thành lập trong suốt niên học 2025–2026, chúng tôi trân trọng gửi lời tri ân sâu sắc đến quý phụ huynh, cựu học sinh, các thành viên và cơ quan hợp tác trong cộng đồng. Sự hỗ trợ bền bỉ, đồng hành và gắn bó của quý vị trong suốt nhiều thập kỷ qua đã góp phần to lớn vào sự thành công của học khu và con em học sinh chúng ta. Chính nhờ sự cam kết của quý vị và sự tin tưởng vào sứ mệnh giáo dục của chúng tôi mà GGUSD ngày càng phát triển vững mạnh. Cảm ơn quý vị đã góp phần quan trọng vào hành trình từ quá khứ, hiện tại và cả trong tương lai.



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Take a walk through Winston the Whale!

PROGRAM DETAILS

Students explore a life-sized, inflatable, Gray whale, and learn about their journey from near extinction to being an example conservation success.

Total Program Length: 3 hours
Maximum # of Students: 160
Fee: \$1500 per program



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or email education@pacificmmc.org

Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Stefan Bean
Superintendent

A New School Year, a Strategic Roadmap, and How One Experience Can Change a Student's Life

I can still see the sun-splashed blacktop at Green Elementary School in San Diego. In third grade, I navigated recess in my wheelchair, eager to play games but often uncertain how to break in. Then one day, something changed.

A Paralympic athlete — strong, confident and seated in a sleek racing wheelchair — visited campus to share his story and challenge students to a 100-meter dash. One by one, he left every competitor in the dust.

Later, I saw his car, outfitted with hand controls. I noticed the way he carried himself — capable, independent and assured. Until that day, I hadn't fully imagined those possibilities for myself. That single moment expanded my vision of what was possible and, in subtle but lasting ways, shifted how my classmates saw me, too.

The experience taught me something I carry to this day: Every student needs a connection that inspires them — a spark.

For some, that spark is found on the athletic field or in a club. For others, it might be a guest speaker, a hands-on project or a trusted adult who sees their potential and makes them feel like they belong.

See OCDE • Page 11

GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

AWARD-WINNING

DUAL IMMERSION PROGRAMS

GGUSD boasts award-winning Dual Language Programs in Spanish and Vietnamese! Children in Dual Immersion Programs develop a competitive advantage due to the benefits of becoming biliterate, bilingual and bicultural.

Spanish

- Monroe, 16225 Newhope, Fountain Valley
- Russell, 600 S. Jackson, Santa Ana
- Simmons, 11602 Steele, Garden Grove

Vietnamese

- Murdy, 14851 Donegal Dr., Garden Grove

ENROLL NOW!



Scan the QR code to register to attend an upcoming Parent Orientation Night to learn more about Dual Immersion enrollment opportunities for the 2026-27 school year. Visit <https://ggusd.us/dual> to learn more.



OCDE • From Page 10

Last year, I worked alongside educators, parents and members of our community to develop a shared vision for how we can ensure all students in Orange County have the opportunities and support they need to thrive.

We called it our 5-3-1 Strategic Plan because it's based on five goals, three priorities for supporting our districts, and one bold audacious goal for OCDE's own alternative education program. Components of the plan include expanding inclusive career technical education, fostering emotional intelligence, integrating AI in education, improving school safety and exploring new funding strategies to fuel innovative programs. The Orange County Department of Education is uniquely positioned to lead this charge. Not only do we provide direct instruction to some of the county's most vulnerable student populations through programs like ACCESS and Connections, we also deliver essential support services to the 28 local school districts we serve. In both capacities, our mission is to help schools and communities create the kinds of experiences that inspire students to see their own potential and find their place.

As we begin this new school year, I encourage every educator, mentor, coach and community partner to consider the difference they can make. Sometimes all it takes is one activity, one opportunity or even one conversation to change the trajectory of a student's life.

I know this because it happened to me. And I believe it can happen for every child in Orange County.

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Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Stefan Bean
Superintendent

What Do You Get a Country Turning 250?

It's not a question we ask often — or even every generation. But as the United States approaches its semiquincentennial in 2026, this milestone invites us to reflect on where we've been, who we are, and where we're headed.

Here in Orange County, we have a pretty good idea for a gift: We're inviting young people to help write our nation's soundtrack.

Marking the occasion with a celebration of student voice, the USA 250-OC Theme Song Competition: Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary Through Song is encouraging high school students in grades 9 through 12 to compose original music that honors the founding of our country and the enduring principles that continue to shape our democracy.

Co-hosted by OC Music & Dance, USA 250 Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education, the contest encourages students to reflect creatively on themes of freedom, unity, perseverance and hope. Each song must be no longer than 250 seconds — that's 4 minutes and 10 seconds — and fall into one of eight genres: pop/adult contemporary, rock, hip-hop/rap, country, jazz, R&B/soul, folk or classical.

See **WHAT DO YOU GET A COUNTY TURNING 250** • Page 13

EVERY CHILD PLAYS • USYVL.ORG



Fountain Valley at Fountain Valley Sports Park

Tuesday, March 31, 2026
- Saturday, June 6, 2026
Tuesdays 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
& Saturdays 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



Boys and Girls ages 7-15

Registration price includes a t-shirt



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register today!
usyvl.org



Top entries in each genre will receive a cash prize and the opportunity to perform live at a countywide Fourth of July celebration in 2026. Students may submit individually or in teams of up to three, and winners will also have the chance to copyright their work.

Submissions are due by Nov. 30, and full contest details are available at link.ocde.us/usa-250-oc.

The contest was introduced earlier this month during a free songwriting workshop hosted by OC Music & Dance and Fender, where student musicians gathered to learn from professionals and collaborate with their peers. It was a powerful reminder of the creativity that lives in our classrooms — and how music continues to inspire connection, storytelling and purpose.

As county superintendent, I'm incredibly proud of the student artists in our schools — and grateful to the educators, mentors and families who nurture their creativity. This competition is more than a celebration of music. It's an invitation to reflect, to express, and to help shape the story of our country through the power of song.

Because maybe, just maybe, what you get a country turning 250 is a generation of young people who are ready and inspired to sing its next verse.

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City of California

BLACK FRIDAY GOES
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WITH CHANCES TO WIN CASH & PRIZES

Shoppers who save their Garden Grove receipts from Black Friday, November 28 through Thursday, December 18, can win "BigG" while supporting local businesses.

GGCITY.ORG/BIGG

Old Food, New Tricks

Give your old food a fresh purpose by placing it in your organics bin, NOT the trash. Together, we can turn today's leftovers into tomorrow's soil, greener gardens, and a more sustainable Garden Grove.

Try these easy tips for smarter recycling:

- Place food scraps, spoiled produce, and leftovers in your organics bin
- Add coffee grounds, filters, and tea bag
- Include food-spoiled paper like napkins, paper towels, & pizza boxes
- Keep yard waste and food scraps together for healthy compost
- No plastic, glass, or food packaging waste

Don't Trash It. Garden Grove! Transform It.

Organics Recycling
GARDEN GROVE

GGCITY.ORG/ORGANICS

CalRecycle GARDEN GROVE

Ask Dr. Shari



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of “pursuit of personal happiness,” too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIn: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

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Alamitos *Intermediate School*

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



Abbie Stirone
Principal

Alamitos Takes Flight with a Powerful Condor PRIDE Kick-Off

Alamitos Intermediate launched the 2025-2026 school year with a powerful and highly-anticipated annual Condor PRIDE Kick-Off

on Friday, August 15.

The entire day was dedicated to establishing a shared vision for a positive and safe learning environment,

rooted in the school's core values. The primary purpose was to guide students to understand and embrace the importance of Purpose, Responsibility, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence—traits essential for academic and personal success. The celebration was a massive success, with the full teaching and support staff engaging alongside a large and enthusiastic number of parents and community supporters. The afternoon turned into a big celebration featuring

a free, delicious BBQ lunch for all students and teachers, followed by energetic games and team-building activities. This strong show of support ensures every Condor is equipped to embody PRIDE and achieve their personal best this school year!



Students engage in energetic games and team-building activities during the school's kick-off event.

Allen *Elementary School*

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



Jamie Wells
Principal

CLIMBing to the Top! Allen Earns PBIS Silver Award

Allen Elementary School is proud to be the recipient of the PBIS Silver Implementation Award. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based framework that helps schools support students' behavioral,

academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Allen launched PBIS just a year and a half ago and has already built a strong foundation around our school values: Choose Safety, Lead By Example, Include Others, Make Good Decisions, and Be Scholarly. Students are celebrated for showing these values by earning green tickets, which can be redeemed for fun rewards and experiences at our

PBIS Store. Our student leaders help with the store by handing out the incentives for CLIMB tickets. This system encourages positive choices and reinforces a culture of respect, responsibility, and achievement. We are proud of our positive culture on campus.



Allen Mountaineers are CLIMBing to success each day, proving that character and academics go hand in hand to create a bright future.

Anthony *Elementary School*

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



Kathleen Ash
Principal

Fostering Leadership Skills in All Students

Susan B. Anthony Elementary School is proud to celebrate another exciting year of student leadership through its robust Student Council program. This fall, more than 30 upper-grade students campaigned for leadership positions, showcasing their creativity, dedication, and enthusiasm for serving their school community. After an energetic election week, four student officers were chosen to lead alongside classroom

representatives and student ambassadors. What makes this program truly special is that every student on campus will be part of the Student Leadership Program, giving all children an opportunity to contribute and develop important skills such as teamwork, responsibility, and communication. The Student Council has already set ambitious goals for the year, including raising funds to support school programs, collecting essential items for families in need, and identifying ways to enhance the overall school environment. With such dedicated student leaders, Susan B. Anthony Elementary is fostering a culture of service, kindness, and school pride.



Anthony Elementary School has a robust Student Council program with dedicated and enthusiastic scholars.

Barker *Elementary School*

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



Michelle Askew
Principal

Making a Historical Connection

Loyal Barker is more than just a name of an elementary school in Garden Grove. The name of the school honors Loyal H. Barker who was an advocate for quality education and actively involved in local community affairs for 18 years; serving as President of the

School Board, PTA and the Orange County School Board Association. Loyal Barker's son, Bill Barker, visited the school in September and presented the school with a rendering of the school before it was built in 1966. Our principal, Mrs. Askew, and the Barker students were thrilled to see the initial vision of their school and how similar it is to the school they love and attend today. Mr. Barker told the students he is happy to see they are continuing his father's legacy of excellence in education. He shared his father would be very proud of their achievements.



On behalf of the Loyal Barker Elementary School community, Mrs. Askew accepts this beautiful architectural drawing of the school from 1966.

Bell *Intermediate School*

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



Chris Holland
Principal

Bell Goes Platinum!

Bell Intermediate is proud to announce that we have been awarded the PBIS Platinum Award, the highest level of recognition for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. This award reflects the incredible partnership between our staff, students, and community in creating a safe, positive, and inclusive school environment. At

Bell, PBIS isn't just about behavior—it's about building a strong sense of belonging and bringing students together as a community where everyone feels valued and supported.



Bell is a proud recipient of the prestigious 2025 California PBIS Platinum Award.

Through PBIS, Bell promotes positive behavior and school spirit using the 5Star program, where students earn points for leadership, kindness, responsibility, and spirit. Points can be redeemed at the PBIS Store for prizes and experiences. All students are also placed into one of four school houses, fostering teamwork and friendly competition.

These efforts have created a thriving school culture, where students are engaged, connected, and motivated to succeed.

Bolsa Grande *High School*

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



Linda Giuliani
Principal

ASB Leads the Way in Orange County

This past summer, Bolsa Grande High School's ASB was awarded the Derrel Stillwagon Leadership Award which is the highest award given to any high school at Leadership Camp. Out of 59 ASB groups, Bolsa was recognized for its character, integrity, kindness, honesty and service above self. These characteristics show themselves

during special events and in their every day service to the Bolsa community. Whether they are supporting visual and performing arts, academic competitions or athletics, Bolsa's ASB works tirelessly to champion the entire Matador community. In all they do, Bolsa's ASB shows up for its community and leads the way. We are proud of them for their recognition and grateful to benefit from the work they do for our school. Here at Bolsa, our ASB leads with kindness and is committed to service to others.



Bolsa Grande High School's ASB was awarded a top award at the state leadership camp.

Brookhurst *Elementary School*

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



Nicole Van Wilgen Moore
Principal

Attendance Matters

Brookhurst Elementary recently celebrated an Attendance Matters Awareness Week with a series of fun spirit days and powerful messages to remind students that showing up every day is the first step toward success. Each day carried a theme, including “Good Attendance Leads to Bright Futures,” “Show Up Strong,” “Head for Success by Arriving on Time,” and “We Are Teaming Up for Attendance.”

Students and staff enjoyed dressing up to match the messages—favorites included Pajama Day, where students came cozy and ready to learn, as captured in a joyful school photo. Other dress-up days encouraged teamwork and school pride, reinforcing that coming to school consistently sets the tone for learning and achievement.

This celebration connects to GGUSD Goal 2, which emphasizes motivation and perseverance. Brookhurst students are inspired to build strong attendance habits, knowing that being present each day helps pave the way to lifelong success.



Brookhurst Elementary School promoted the importance of good attendance with a series of fun dress-up days including Pajama Day.

Bryant *Arts Academy*

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



Kristine Levenson
Principal

Celebrating Culture

On September 16th, Bryant Elementary hosted a fantastic Hispanic Heritage Month celebration filled with music and culture. Students, staff and families watched outstanding performances by Baile

Folklorico Renacimiento, featuring stunning costumes. The impressive dance group included a few current and former Bryant students and family members. We also enjoyed the beautiful sounds of the incredibly talented Jose Hernandez Mariachi. We are proud of the opportunity to host events that honor and showcase the rich traditions of our community.



Bryant students loved the awesome performances during the school's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

Carrillo *Elementary School*

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



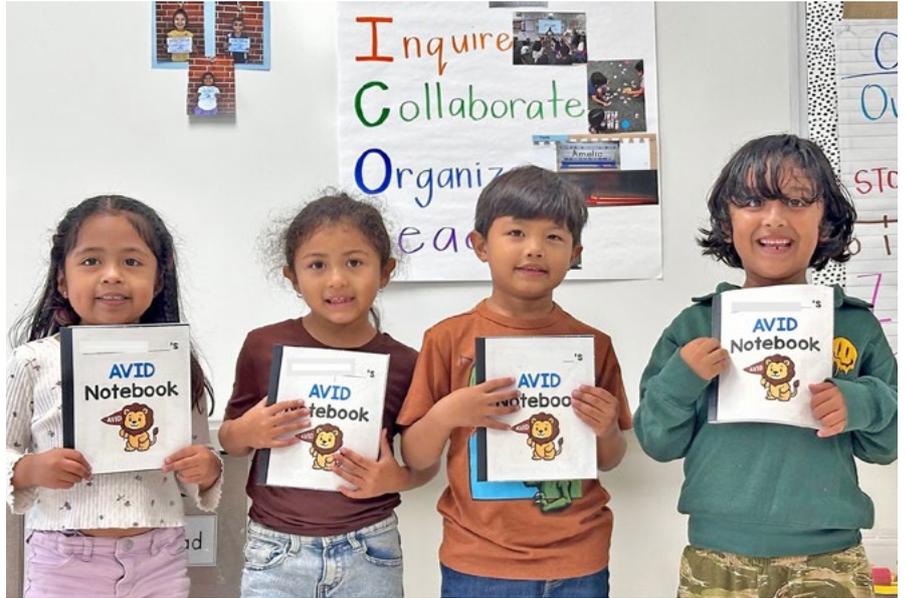
Mark Vosper
Principal

Setting High Standards

This year, Carrillo Elementary continues to build on setting high standards for our students and revisiting them throughout the year while celebrating daily successes. Carrillo will continue to support all students with both whole-group, small group, and individualized instruction to help students meet

grade-level rigor and make progress toward Goal 1: Academic Success. PBIS supports Goal 2: Personal Skills, focusing on developing students' social-emotional growth. Carrillo teachers received training in AVID strategies, which they are incorporating into classroom instruction. These strategies promote organization, critical thinking, and the importance of revisiting lessons to reinforce learning. By practicing AVID strategies and engaging in targeted instruction, students strengthen skills

that support Goal 3: Lifelong Success. Carrillo is dedicated to ensuring every child has the tools to grow academically, personally, and for the future.



Kindergarten students put their AVID strategies to work.

Carver *Early Childhood Education Center*

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



Jennifer Epp
Principal

New Frog Street Curriculum – Focusing on Social-Emotional Growth and Language Development

Carver ECEC Preschool is excited to announce the launch of our new Frog Street curriculum, a research-based program designed to nurture the whole child while setting the foundation for future academic success. One of the most powerful aspects of Frog Street is its strong emphasis on social-emotional learning (SEL). Through

engaging stories, songs, and classroom routines, students are learning how to recognize and manage their feelings, build positive relationships, and practice empathy and cooperation. These skills are essential not only for school readiness but also for lifelong success. In addition to SEL, Frog Street offers countless opportunities to enhance language development. Each lesson is rich in vocabulary-building activities, interactive read-alouds, and intentional conversations that encourage students to express themselves in meaningful ways. Teachers guide students in using new words, asking questions, and connecting ideas—skills that build confidence and prepare them for literacy. Adding to the excitement, students have already been

introduced to Fernando the Frog, the cheerful mascot of the Frog Street program. Fernando helps bring learning to life by modeling curiosity, friendship, and fun. He is quickly becoming a favorite in our classrooms, reminding children that learning is something to celebrate every day.



By combining high-quality instruction with a focus on the social and emotional needs of young learners, Frog Street is helping Carver ECEC Preschool continue to provide an inclusive, nurturing, and engaging environment for every child.

Clinton Corner *Family Campus*

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



Emma Druitt
Principal

Thriving and Learning

Our school year is off to a great start! Students are thriving and learning. We have a new curriculum this year, Frog Street, and are seeing wonderful progress already. We recently hosted our annual Preschool Community Health & Resource Fair which

featured more than 40 community partners as well as food, face painting, free diapers, OC Fire Authority fire truck, games, and so many raffle prizes! Families also enjoyed a presentation from GGUSD Superintendent Dr. Gabriela Mafi who shared strategies about nurturing our youngest learners. The Fair was an awesome opportunity to connect with families and share resources and services to help young children thrive.



Hundreds of families attended the annual Preschool Community Health and Resource Fair at Clinton Corner.

Clinton *Elementary School*

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



Beth Cusimano
Principal

Padres en Acción

Clinton Elementary School is off to a great start and excited to begin our first year of Padres en Acción, a dynamic program incorporating parent and community engagement as well as parent leadership. As a part of this initiative, parents will join students during lunch recess to lead games that build teamwork, encourage collaboration, and ensure safe, active play. The program also includes

training on healthy nutrition and physical activity to support the overall wellness of our students.

Twenty-five dedicated parents have already begun training and will soon be a regular presence on our campus. Their involvement brings new energy, care, and support to our school community. We are excited to see our students and families grow stronger together through this positive, engaging opportunity. Thank you to our Clinton families for helping to create enriching experiences that support the success and happiness of every Clinton scholar!



Clinton Elementary spearheaded a new parent leadership program to increase family engagement and collaboration.

Cook Elementary School

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



Ryan Baker
Principal

Roaring with Cook Pride

Cook Elementary School students returned for the 2025-26 school year eager to learn and adhere to our R.O.A.R tenets (Be Responsible, Be Organized, Accept Others, Be Respectful) Cook's access to technology (each student has their own device), and high-quality instruction from their teachers, help

Cook consistently outperform the county and state averages in both Math and English Language Arts on California assessments. Due to this exceptional academic performance, and other factors, Cook was recognized as a California Distinguished School for 2025! In addition to annual academic success, we remain focused on our students' mental health. Our Wellness Center will continue to be staffed by

licensed counselors ready to help our kids and give them a safe space. Finally, Cook was recognized as a PBIS Gold Medal school which recognized the efforts of staff to set high standards of behavior for all of our students. We are extremely proud of all Cook teachers and students and look forward to another successful school year!



Cook Elementary was honored by the Board of Education as one of GGUSD's 11 California Distinguished Schools.

Crosby Elementary School

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



Dianna Rangel
Principal

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Crosby Elementary celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a lively dance performance from Monroe Elementary Language Academy students, highlighting various regions in Mexico. The event, which included traditional dances like the Dance of the Little Old Men showcased the vibrant heritage and talents of young performers.

The event was made possible through the strong partnership between Crosby Elementary and the Crosby PTA. The PTA played a crucial role in providing funding, coordinating volunteers, and offering gifts to all the performers.

The event not only provided a fun and educational experience but also fostered a sense of community and cultural pride among students, teachers, and families. Crosby Elementary looks forward to continuing these meaningful celebrations in the future with our Lunar New Year Celebration in February.



Monroe Elementary Language Academy students deliver a lively dance performance at Crosby's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

Doig *Intermediate School*

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



Juan Alvarez
Principal

Learning to Dance

This year, the students at Doig Intermediate have the opportunity to take dance as a physical education course or an elective. The dance program offers a dynamic introduction to the world of dance, designed to ignite creativity and build confidence in students. This program provides a fun and supportive environment where students are introduced to the basics of various dance styles, including hip-hop, jazz, folklorico, and contemporary. Through structured lessons, students explore fundamental techniques, rhythm, and movement while learning the importance of teamwork and self-expression. Whether they have prior dance experience or are stepping into a

dance class for the first time, every student is encouraged to embrace their individuality and develop new skills. The program's goal is to spark a lifelong appreciation for dance and give students a solid foundation to explore further opportunities in the arts.



Students are learning new dance skills through P.E. and a new elective being offered at Doig.

Eisenhower *Elementary School*

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



Chris Ash
Principal

Leading with Service

At Eisenhower Elementary, student leaders in the PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership) program are making a powerful impact on their school and community. The program's mission is to develop youth leaders who connect with their peers to create a caring and supportive school environment. Through PAL, Eisenhower students have taken part in meaningful lessons and led projects that extend far beyond campus.

Their efforts have included service projects benefiting homeless teens, veterans, fire victims, patients at CHOC Hospital, and ocean clean-up. On campus, PAL has organized Friday social games at lunch and helped with garden beautification projects.

A highlight of Eisenhower's PAL work has been joining Realize the Dream, a nationwide movement supported by the King Family that seeks to complete 100 million service hours by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 100th birthday. In just one year, Eisenhower contributed an incredible 11,554 service hours toward this goal.

This commitment to leadership and service reflects the heart of Eisenhower, where students are encouraged to use

their voices, share their talents, and make a difference. By modeling kindness and responsibility, PAL students are not only shaping a positive school culture but also preparing to be leaders in the wider world.

To stay up to date on all the great things happening at Eisenhower, follow us on Instagram and Facebook @EisenhowerGGUSD.



Eisenhower students bring color and care to their school garden, painting garden beds as part of a hands-on service project that makes their campus a more welcoming and vibrant place.

Enders *Elementary School*

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



**Michelle
Rushall**
Principal

Celebrating Community and Success

We are excited to welcome four new classes of Moderate to Severe Special Education students to our campus. In addition, we are preparing for the arrival of two new fee-based preschool classes, further expanding our commitment to serving the diverse needs of our community. Our Apex Fun Run was

a tremendous success—surpassing all previous fundraising efforts! Students had a blast learning about “leveling up” for success while participating in the run alongside friends and family. We also had another fantastic turnout for Picnic on the Playground. Students enjoyed a special lunchtime with a parent, teacher, or special friend, making it a memorable and heartwarming event for all. As we move into fall, the school continues to strengthen its commitment to Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) through engaging classroom lessons, schoolwide assemblies, and ongoing staff development.



Enders’ families loved raising funds for the school through the Apex Fun Run.

Evans *Elementary School*

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



**Adam
Bernstein**
Principal

Learning Beyond the School Day

At Evans we are proud of all of the wonderful learning opportunities our students have after school. In addition to the Boys and Girls Club program, we are offering numerous after-school classes. We have started our second year of Disney Musicals in Schools with a brand-new production of Finding Nemo. Rehearsals are

currently being held under the guidance of a group of Evans teachers. We are also offering the Young Rembrandts Drawing Class and an after-school Art Class that is being taught by two talented Evans teachers. Our Aspire team of therapists is also involved with our after-school programming. The Aspire team is currently facilitating a “Feelings in Focus” after-school class that involves photography and mental wellness. Of course, we also have several teachers providing extra academic support to students in language arts and math through after-school intervention classes.

We are confident that after-school programming at Evans is helping our students thrive in academic skills (Goal 1), personal skills (Goal 2) and lifelong success (Goal 3).



Students enjoy the opportunity to engage in fun art lessons as part of Evans after-school learning opportunities.

Excelsior *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Jennifer Carter
Principal

Celebrating the 2025 CA Distinguished School Award

Excelsior Elementary received one of the highest honors for public schools, the 2025 California Distinguished School Award. This recognition reflects

Excelsior's outstanding academic performance, strong learning culture, and success of closing the

achievement gap. The award embodies the dedication of the teachers, staff, family, and community. Our teachers set high standards for the Excelsior scholars and are committed to meeting the individual needs of every learner. Students are the heart of Excelsior's excellence. Our success is measured by the growth, grit, and greatness of our students. We appreciate the partnership between our school and the parents/families, who provide essential support at home and actively participate in our

school community. Excelsior Elementary is a wonderful place where students thrive and the staff go above and beyond to ensure the students are making growth not only academically but in all other areas.



Excelsior Elementary School was honored at a special dinner hosted by California State Superintendent Tony Thurmond for earning the prestigious 2025 California Distinguished School Award.

Faylane *Elementary School*

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



Mike Ingalls
Principal

New Opportunities at Faylane

Faylane Elementary School is committed to carrying out the district's goals of equipping all students with the academic skills and personal skills for lifelong success. As a recently-awarded Community School, our parents and staff are collaborating on ideas to complement our focus on Goal 1 (academic skills). During our after-school Extended

Learning Program (ELO), we have added Dr. Mafi's College and Career Mentoring Program (CCMP), an after-school Wednesday Soccer and Friday Pickleball Program, after-school art, 3D printing, and Robotics. These complement our Reading, Math and Science ELO intervention classes. While we continue to press forward in academic successes, we have added such classes for socio-emotional well-being (Goal 2), to enhance lifelong success (Goal 3). Coming soon to our fields will be an expansion of our during the school day recess and physical education extensions, which will include extra

opportunities in street hockey, basketball, volleyball, soccer, flag football, and the like. There is nothing at all wrong with a bit of fun to foster well-rounded students committed to future achievement. We have embarked on such a path!



Students are enjoying the school's new after-school pickleball program.

Fitz *Intermediate Language Academy*

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



Louie Gomez
Principal

Making Music and Memories

In the summer of 2025, the Fitz Intermediate Choir made history. Under the direction of Dr. Nora Hernández and accompanied by teacher and pianist Mr. Javier Nguyen, 21 choir students and five dedicated chaperones traveled across the country to New York City for the

performance of a lifetime: singing at the world-renowned Carnegie Hall.

Over the course of five exciting days and four unforgettable nights, the group immersed themselves in the vibrant energy of New York. They explored the city's landmarks, visited the Empire State Building, and even attended a Broadway production all while preparing for a prestigious performance on one of the world's most respected stages.

This trip was more than just a musical opportunity; it was a powerful reminder of what hard work, passion, and community can achieve. The Fitz Choir returned home with memories they'll carry for a lifetime, and a legacy that has made history.



Fitz Intermediate Language Academy's Choir shines on stage at Carnegie Hall.

Garden Grove *High School*

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



Mary Jane Hibbard
Principal

Building Stronger Community

Garden Grove High School is proud of its student-led Bridges Club which is committed to fostering a safe and welcoming environment through coalition building among all stakeholders with students at the center, along with parents, teachers, administrators and staff. We are excited to work towards bringing the services offered from Groundswell

to our ELAC group this year! For our first retreat of the school year, we will work to establish our core values as a representative population, build trust within the community, and create action steps that will help us in bridging understanding and awareness of the diverse perspectives and experiences we carry with us on campus in an effort to create a more safe and respectful student body. With the data collected at this retreat, we will plan for our Annual Argo Unity Month, where we celebrate culture, invite guest speakers, and bring awareness in how to take care of our community.



The Bridges Club at GGHS is committed to fostering a welcoming and respectful culture and climate among the Argo community.

Garden Park *Elementary School*

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



Jaemie Johnson
Principal

PTA Brings Fun, Tradition and Community

The Garden Park community is blessed with a robust and active Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA provides exciting opportunities throughout the year, like our Kona Ice Truck visit to help us cool off on a hot day. Students are currently engaged in a PTA sponsored art opportunity to publish their work, for families to purchase at the holidays, and the campus will soon be buzzing with ghosts and ghouls at our annual Trunk or Treat event. Throughout the year, students and their families get to participate in school dances, family dining nights, movie nights, fun runs, winter workshop, book swaps, yearbook signing parties, and many other favorite traditions that even gecko alumni return to our campus to enjoy. Our PTA is so much more than a fundraising organization, as people may think. Our students benefit from this partnership between staff and parents, creating a positive school climate for our students.



Students enjoy a visit from the Kona Ice Truck thanks to support from the school's PTA.

Gilbert *Elementary School*

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



George Martinez
Principal

Supporting Student Success

Gilbert Elementary School is excited to offer attendance recovery classes aimed at students who have missed school time. All grade levels are offered opportunities to have extended learning one to two hours per week to enhance their education experience. After a healthy snack, students will join teachers offering after-school time focusing on English, Math and other subjects that students may have fallen behind in. The additional time serves as both knowledge building as well as the opportunity to make up for absences that have occurred. The chance to support our students as



well as improve attendance is very exciting to all the staff! In support of the GGUSD mission statement, providing a rigorous and supportive academic experience that motivates all learners to meet high expectations, we look forward to our students getting the support and foundation they need for continued success.



Gilbert teachers are committed to providing extended learning to support students' academic growth. Mr. Stoffel, Principal George Martinez, Ms. Garton, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Waugh, Ms. Taguchi, Ms. Davies, and Ms. Tanner.

Hare High School

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



Lydia Machado
Principal

Fun Fridays Fuel Stronger School Community

Every Friday at Hare High School, the quad comes alive with laughter, teamwork, and connection through our Fun Friday activities—an initiative designed to strengthen the bond between students and staff. These weekly events create a relaxed, engaging atmosphere where everyone can interact beyond the classroom setting. Activities like staff-versus-student soccer and volleyball games, board games, and creative

workshops offer a chance for students to see teachers as mentors and teammates. These interactions foster a greater sense of belonging, boost school spirit, and improve relationships that positively impact student well-being and academic motivation. When students feel connected to their school community, they're more likely to attend regularly, participate actively, and succeed both socially and academically. Fun Fridays at Hare are more than just fun—they're a powerful tool for building a supportive school culture where everyone feels valued, respected, and included. It's a win-win for students and staff alike.



Students and staff engage in friendly game of flag football at lunch as a part of Fun Friday.

Hazard Elementary School

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



Sherry Sanborn
Principal

Celebrating Constitution Day at Hazard Elementary

On September 17, Hazard Elementary came together to proudly celebrate Constitution Day, honoring the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. The campus was filled with red, white, and blue as students and staff showed their patriotism

and appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy today. The celebration also highlighted our PBIS focus of being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe, values that helped Hazard earn the honor of being named a 2025 PBIS Platinum School. More than a history lesson, Constitution Day reminded students that every voice matters and that they have the power to shape the future of our country. This observance also reflects our commitment to

GGUSD Goal 1: Academic Skills and

Goal 2: Personal Skills, as our Eagles continue to grow as confident learners, caring leaders, and responsible citizens who soar.



Hazard students proudly wear red, white, and blue to celebrate Constitution Day.

Heritage Computer Science Immersion Academy

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



Ryan Loberger
Principal

Stepping in to Serve Students with New Shoes

This September, Heritage Computer Science Academy worked with Shoes That Fit to provide a new pair of shoes to every student at Heritage, including the elementary, special education preschool, and state preschool programs. The distribution day included visits from district representatives and local officials, who joined in helping students get shoes, socks, and shoelace charms. This amazing opportunity highlights the work Heritage does to meet the needs of students through community resources. In addition to our Community Schools Initiative, Heritage continues to participate in the AVID program, No Place for Hate, and OC GRIP. Heritage is a Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) Platinum School, and provides instruction in computer sciences for all students in TK through 6th Grade. We are proud of the programs and support we provide to our students!



Students in Transitional Kindergarten show off their new shoes with their teacher and the Heritage Eagle.

Hill Elementary School

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



Lien Thompson
Principal

A New Look for TK

This year, Transitional Kindergarten (TK) at Hill Elementary has a fresh new focus, centered on the developmental needs of our youngest learners. TK teachers recently received training in the newly released California TK Learning Foundations, which emphasize learning through play, social-emotional development, and early language skills. This ensures our beginning learners build the foundation needed to develop both academic and personal skills, setting them up for lifelong success.

Our TK classrooms are filled with joyful, hands-on activities that help students learn academic skills, build friendships, express emotions, and engage meaningfully with their environment. Children are learning how to work and play together while developing the language and self-regulation skills that set the stage for future academic success.

Hill's TK students are happy, highly engaged, and thriving in learning spaces designed to support their growth.

At Hill Elementary, we're proud to support the whole child and create a strong foundation for learning. TK is more than a starting point—it's the beginning of a positive, engaging school experience.



Students joyfully explore books and learn early language skills in Transitional Kindergarten.

Irvine Intermediate School

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



Holly Jefferson
Principal

The 2025–26 School Year is Off to a Soaring Start!

The first day of school was bursting with excitement as our Hawks returned to campus ready to work hard and ready to SOAR!

Students kicked off the year with our PBIS rollout, learning the Hawk House expectations:

Stay safe, Offer kindness, Act responsibly, and Respect others. To celebrate their hard work, our incredible ASB hosted our Welcome Back Dance. They transformed the MPR into a vibrant party zone, complete with music, lights, and the mouthwatering smell of burgers wafting through the air. Over 200 Hawks turned out for an unforgettable afternoon of dancing, laughter, and

delicious treats—burgers, chips, cookies, and refreshing lemonade. The dance floor was packed, the photo stations were popping, and the school spirit was soaring sky-high. What an incredible start to the year—we can't wait for the next Hawk House event!



Irvine Intermediate celebrated students' commitment to showing up and shining bright with a special Perfect Attendance Breakfast.

Jordan Intermediate School

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



Nick Clark
Principal

A Beloved Tradition

At Jordan Intermediate School, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

(PBIS) provides a clear system for teaching and rewarding positive student behavior. This year, students participated in our annual PBIS Circus, where they learned how to show Respect,

Responsibility, and Kindness in all areas of campus. During the event, students rotated through stations highlighting expectations for different areas—such as the fields, quad, library, and multi-purpose room. After learning the expectations, students practiced their skills through fun activities like “over-under” and egg races. Staff members also recognize students who demonstrate positive behavior by giving them PBIS tickets, which can be redeemed for Jordan spirit items at the PBIS Store.

The PBIS Circus continues to be a favorite tradition at Jordan—a day filled with learning, practice, and plenty of fun!



Jordan students love earning PBIS tickets and shopping at the PBIS Store.

La Quinta High School

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



Denise Kirkman
Principal

Supporting Student Mental Health

La Quinta High School was delighted to welcome Odie, Samdog, Zorro, and Lucy—therapy dogs brought to us by Each Mind Matters in partnership with La Quinta High School NAMI and PAWS clubs. These amazing dogs visit our campus monthly to provide love

and emotional support to our students and staff.

This visit was especially meaningful as it helped us honor and celebrate Suicide Awareness Month, supporting Goal 2 by modeling healthy ways to cope with and manage mental health. These lovable therapy dogs serve as comforting companions, offering support through both joyful and challenging moments.

Our LQ scholars were thrilled to have such a special experience

on campus—made possible through the dedication and leadership of our staff club advisors and student organizers.



La Quinta students love visiting with therapy dogs that visit each month from Each Mind Matters in partnership with the school's mental health awareness clubs.

Lake Intermediate School

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



Allie Bak
Principal

Helping Every Student Thrive

Lake is PBIS PLATINUM! Lake has received the highest recognition for successful implementation of PBIS at the PLATINUM level. This recognition reflects the excellence, hard work, and commitment of all staff in implementing positive interventions and supports and creating the conditions to maximize social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes for all students.

Our Universal Tier 1 programs create a vibrant campus life for all. The library is open at lunch for students to build friendships over board games and chess, while students earn FIRE Cards for demonstrating Focus, Integrity, Respect, and Excellence, which they redeem at our weekly FIRE Store.

For targeted Tier 2 programs, students access our Wellness Room, seek restorative conversations through Project Kinship, and participate in numerous award-winning extended learning opportunities, electives, and clubs like Club Live and Yearbook.

Our Tier 3 programs offer individualized support for students in need of intensive support. Through critical partnerships with Aspire, Student Services, and now as a

Community School, both students and families are better connected to a variety of supports needed for lifelong success.

This recognition celebrates Lake's deep commitment to creating a positive and nurturing environment where every student can thrive. We are proud of this outstanding accomplishment.



Students regularly enjoy Lunch Bunch in the Library to connect with friends over games.

Lawrence *Elementary School*

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



Julie Kawai
Principal

Inclusive Golf Experience

Lawrence Elementary recently had the pleasure of welcoming First Tee Orange County for a special visit that left a lasting impact on students and staff alike. As part of their outreach, First Tee delivered two engaging 30-minute golf-putting lessons tailored for our unified Adapted Physical Education (APE) class.

These sessions were more than just an opportunity to learn a new sport—they were a model of inclusion, support, and encouragement.

Led by Coach Keely and Coach Glenn, the sessions created a low-pressure, positive environment where typically developing peers and students with disabilities worked side-by-side. Students took turns, encouraged one another, and celebrated each small success, fostering a true sense of community. The coaches demonstrated exceptional patience and kindness, skillfully adapting their instruction and using clear verbal cues to ensure every student could participate and experience success.

We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity for our students to learn new skills and engage with each other in a fun way.



Lawrence students try their hand at golf during a fun, inclusive lesson.

Lincoln *Adult Education Center*

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



Amy Avina
Principal

Two New Medical Certification Pathways Offered

The Garden Grove Adult Education program has launched two medical certification pathways in 2025: Pharmacy Technician and Phlebotomy. Adults 18 and over with a high school diploma or equivalent may enroll in one of our CTE Medical Pathway programs. Our Pharmacy Tech course provides the essential knowledge and skills to

become a licensed Pharmacy Technician, covering the fundamentals of pharmacology, pharmacy laws, and ethical practices. Students prepare for the Pharm Tech Certification Board examination to earn their certificate. The Phlebotomy Tech program fulfills all of the California requirements for students to become licensed phlebotomists by offering an introduction to the field, which covers fundamental and advanced skills leading to clinical practice. Students are prepared for the National Healthcareer Association Certified Phlebotomy Technician Exam and complete a 40-hour externship. Registration for the next cohort begins in October. Your future is bright at GGAE!



Students in the Garden Grove Adult Education Phlebotomy program learn by doing, practicing their skills on one another so that they learn technique as well as patient comfort.

Los Amigos High School

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



Todd Nirk
Principal

Supporting and Serving Our Community

Our first-ever Los Amigos Health Fair was an outstanding success and truly a fun evening for our entire community! We were thrilled to welcome more than 600 families who came out to enjoy this special evening together.

With the help from many community partners including Orange County Social Services Agency, participants had the opportunity to explore a wide variety of valuable services, including fresh food boxes, backpacks packed with school supplies, toys, and diapers. Families also took advantage of essential health resources such as our mobile vaccination unit, comprehensive health exams, vision services, and dental examinations.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, a food truck from Brackens Kitchen provided every attendee with delicious teriyaki chicken plates, creating a wonderful community dining experience.

The energy was contagious throughout the night, with smiling faces everywhere as our Los Amigos community came together to access important resources while building connections with neighbors and friends.



More than 600 people attended the first annual Health Fair at Los Amigos High School.

Mark Twain Special Education Center and Adult Transition Program

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



Joell Sparks
Principal

Maximizing Support and Resources

I am very excited as the principal of Mark Twain to welcome the former Jordan Adult Transition Program (ATP) students, new ATP students, students who have been attending Mark Twain as well as our staff and families to one campus. Our district built two new classroom buildings,

an administrative building, shade structures, and new basketball courts. This expansion supports our students' growth in our three district goals: academic skills, personal skills and lifelong success. New equipment has been installed to support the continued development of our students' self-help skills (e.g., cooking stations, dishwashers, washing machines, and dryers). In addition, we have a sensory room, specialized library, recreation room,

and ATP Works program. Bringing all of these services and support staff together allows us to maximize resources and provide a range of opportunities for students. We are thrilled about the expansion and all it means for our students, staff, and families.



Marshall *Elementary School*

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



Sarah Van Dam
Principal

Road to Success

Marshall Elementary's Friday Flag assemblies are driving school spirit and student success! Led each week by our fifth and sixth grade student leadership team, these spirited gatherings reinforce our school-wide expectations, known by the acronym R.O.A.D.

Each month shines a spotlight on one of the R.O.A.D. principles: Respectful, On Task, Accountable, and Driven. The assemblies are a fun, engaging way to teach and celebrate the positive behaviors that make Marshall a great place to learn.

The excitement culminates on the last Friday of the month with a special celebration! Students who exemplify the month's focus are recognized, complete with high-energy cheers from our fourth grade cheerleading squad. Parents are warmly invited to join these monthly

award assemblies and cheer on our outstanding students. Come see the R.O.A.D. to success in action!



The Marshall Cheer Squad helps celebrate student successes and spread school spirit.

McGarvin *Intermediate School*

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



Bill Gates
Principal

Vietnamese Bilingual Pathway Program Begins This Year

McGarvin Intermediate is proud to announce the launch of our Vietnamese Bilingual Pathway program this year!

This exciting new program allows students to continue their bilingual educational

journey in Vietnamese, seamlessly building on their strong foundational language skills, while also fostering their deep cultural pride and connection to their heritage.

In fact, students recently celebrated their culture by hosting a Mid-Autumn Festival lantern-creating contest for all McGarvin students. This traditional harvest and children's holiday—observed

on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month—was a fantastic opportunity for students to celebrate their heritage, showcase their creativity, reflect on the festival's focus on family, gratitude, and giving, and connect the McGarvin community in a meaningful way. McGarvin Owls are WISE!



McGarvin Intermediate students enjoy celebrating cultural holidays including the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Mitchell *Elementary School*

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



Carrie Bostick
Principal

Fostering Healthy Habits through Play

The excitement is palpable on the court as our students shoot hoops with our new lunchtime sports coach! This twice-weekly session is more than just fun; it's a dynamic investment in the district's goals. By engaging in team sports, students are not only honing their Academic Skills through strategic thinking and following complex rules, but they're also building essential Personal Skills like cooperation, resilience, and communication. Furthermore, fostering a lifelong appreciation for physical activity and teamwork sets them up for Lifelong Success—instilling healthy habits and the ability to work effectively with others in any future endeavor. We're thrilled to see our students thriving on and off the court!



Mitchell students love the new lunchtime sports coach who is bringing a new level of fun during recess.

Morningside *Elementary School*

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



Toby Vares
Principal

Connecting with School Community

Morningside continues to build a sense of community, belonging, and a positive school climate! To help welcome back our Mighty Mustangs, our dedicated Parent Teacher Association (PTA) hosted First Friday to welcome back our scholars.

All students were treated and served a cup of Joe's Italian Ice and had the opportunity to build new relationships and socialize with their grade level friends. Our PTA, along with support from our school staff and parent volunteers, will be instrumental in providing engaging events such as Movie Night, Trunk or Treat, Jog a Thon, Spring Carnival, field trip opportunities and many other events. We are so proud to have an

active parent community to support our Mighty Mustangs! We are looking forward to another exciting year on the Morningside campus!



Students enjoy a sweet treat during a fun Welcome Back to School event.

Monroe *Elementary Dual Language Academy*

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



César Loya
Principal

Celebrating Latinx History Month

On September 12, Monroe Elementary Language Academy proudly celebrated Latinx History Month with a vibrant student performance that showcased culture and tradition. The highlight was a presentation by the Ballet Folklórico Raíces de Monroe, which delighted students and families during the school's Friday Flag Assembly.

Dressed in colorful traditional attire, the dancers performed with energy and pride, bringing Mexican folkloric dance to life. Parents, staff, and classmates cheered as the students highlighted the beauty and importance of cultural heritage.

The celebration didn't stop there. After their school performance, the Ballet Folklórico students boarded a bus to Crosby Elementary, where they performed for another enthusiastic audience of students and families. Their efforts reflected not only their dedication to dance but also their role as cultural ambassadors across schools.

The Ballet Folklórico program at Monroe is guided by Maestra Tavares, whose passion and leadership have helped it grow into a thriving program that now serves about 70 students. Beyond learning traditional dance steps, participants gain confidence, discipline, and a deeper connection to their cultural roots.

Through performances like these, Monroe Elementary Language Academy honors Latinx History Month by uplifting student voices and traditions that strengthen the community. The Raíces de Monroe dancers remind us that celebrating culture in schools fosters pride, unity, and an appreciation for the diverse backgrounds that enrich our lives.



The Ballet Folklórico Raíces de Monroe delighted students and families during a recent performance for Latinx History Month.

Murdy *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Michele Luong
Principal

Supporting Students' Emotional Health

This year, Murdy Elementary school is proud to launch its social emotional learning (SEL) theme, Mustangs Regulate, which emphasizes the importance of emotional regulation. As part of our commitment

to social and emotional learning, students will be introduced to practical tools and strategies to help them understand, manage, and express their emotions in healthy ways. Through classroom activities, discussions, and school-wide initiatives, students will learn how to recognize their emotional states and apply regulation techniques—such as breathing exercises, movement breaks, and mindfulness—to stay focused, calm, and

in control. By equipping students with these essential skills, we aim to foster a supportive environment where all learners can thrive academically and emotionally. Mustangs Regulate empowers our students to take ownership of their emotional well-being and contribute to a positive school culture.



Murdy's Herd empowers all students to show their regulation superpowers!

Newhope *Elementary School*

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



**Eva
Matthews**
Principal

An Exciting Start to the Year

On August 11, we began our 2025-26 with special guests, School Resource Officer Pacheco, his sidekick Shadow, and our very own Jungle Jim Tiger! All of our scholars were excited and ready to begin the new year. Since our return to school, we've hit the ground running with several exciting events and initiatives. We successfully hosted our Back to School Night and the Title

I Annual Meeting, welcoming families and setting the tone for a strong year of partnership and student success. To support our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program, we launched our very first Tiger Store, where students can redeem points for positive behavior. This is a fun and engaging way to reinforce good choices. In celebration of Latin Heritage Month, we kicked off the festivities with our first annual Lotería Family Night. It was a fantastic evening filled with culture, community, and connection. We're excited to continue this momentum and look forward to sharing more events and accomplishments in our next update!



Newhope staff is all smiles welcoming students back to school for the 2025-2026 school year.

Northcutt *Elementary School*

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



**Brian
Ladd**
Principal

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Northcutt Elementary was excited to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with an assembly full of engaging and educational entertainment. The first extraordinary performance came to us from the La Quinta Latinos Unidos Baile Folklorico. La Quinta students presented regional dances in

traditional attire to celebrate the month! In addition to the dances, Northcutt students also learned about the rich history and culture behind each of the songs and dances presented to them. The school also had a mariachi band perform for a cultural celebration that students will remember for years to come. Northcutt prides itself on celebrating the diverse cultures of all our students to focus on well-being and a sense of belonging while focusing on Goal 2!



La Quinta High School's Baile Folklorico performance delighted students during Northcutt Elementary School's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

Pacifica High School

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



Stephanie Bartlett
Principal

Pacifica NHS Chapter Wins National Award

Pacifica High School is proud to share that its National Honor Society (NHS) chapter has earned the National Award for Excellence in Scholarship!

This prestigious recognition honors students for their leadership, service, and academic excellence. Pacifica's NHS stood out for its tutoring program, which offers free

academic support to all students, helping Mariners succeed both in and out of the classroom.

NASSP CEO Ronn Nozoe explained, "The NHS Chapter Pillar Awards celebrate chapters that truly embody what the National Honor Society stands for—students who don't just excel academically but actively strengthen their communities. The Pacifica High School chapter demonstrates how powerful it can be when young leaders channel their talents toward meaningful service and positive change."

We are incredibly proud of our NHS members for earning this national recognition. Their commitment to scholarship and service reflects the very best of what it means to be a Mariner: working hard, helping others, and striving for excellence every day.

A special thank-you goes to Mrs. Stultz and Mrs. Parrot, our dedicated NHS advisors, for their guidance and support in helping students achieve this honor.



Pacifica High School NHS students proudly display their National Award for Excellence banner.

Paine Elementary School

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



Charise Santana
Principal

A Beautiful Reminder for Paine Panthers

Thomas Paine Elementary is proud to celebrate the unveiling of our new ROARS mural, created in collaboration with OC United Way and Operation Clean Slate. This vibrant and inspiring artwork reflects our school-wide commitment to the ROARS expectations: Responsible, Organized, Always Kind, Respectful, and Safe. These core values are part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

(PBIS) framework and help guide students in making positive choices both in and out of the classroom.

The mural serves as a daily visual reminder of what it means to be part of the Paine community, reinforcing the values we practice every day. This exciting milestone also comes as we are recognized once again with the California PBIS Gold Implementation Award, a testament to the hard work and commitment of our entire staff in fostering a safe, supportive, and engaging school environment.

Together with OC United Way and Operation Clean Slate, we continue to build a culture where students thrive.



Paine students showcase the new mural, a beautiful reminder of the school's behavior expectations.

Parkview *Elementary School*

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

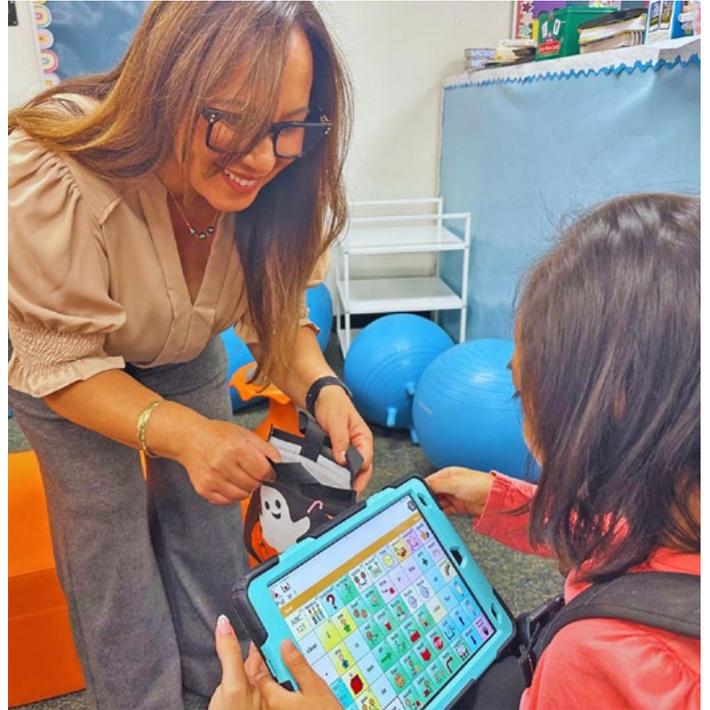


**Kawehi
Holomalia-
Gonzalez**
Principal

We All Communicate in Different Ways

At Parkview Elementary, we believe every student deserves a voice — and our dedicated Speech and Language team is helping make that happen. Communication doesn't look the same for every child. That's why our team provides a tiered level of support to meet students where they are. Beginning in our TK and Kindergarten classrooms, they offer Response to Intervention (RTI) services and guide teachers in understanding what's

linguistically appropriate for each developmental stage. This early support helps build strong communication foundations from the start. One of the most inspiring things to witness is students using speech-generating devices to express themselves — asking questions, sharing ideas, and letting us know what they need. These tools empower students to connect with their peers, fostering a school community that's inclusive, supportive, and respectful of all communication styles. At Parkview, we're not just teaching students how to communicate — we're helping them be heard.



Speech-generating devices help students with special needs express themselves.

Patton *Elementary School*

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



**Kai
Chang**
Principal

Patton Welcomes New Assistant Principal

Patton Elementary School is delighted to welcome Erin Rivera as its new Assistant Principal. Mrs. Rivera brings 20 years of experience in the Garden Grove Unified School District, including 15 years as a classroom teacher and the past four years as a TK-6 TOSA. Mrs. Rivera's educational journey began right here at Patton as a classroom teacher. "Coming back to Patton

truly feels like coming home," she shared. A proud mom of twin eighth-grade daughters, Mrs. Rivera and her husband, a fellow educator, share a deep passion for teaching and learning. Outside of school, she enjoys staying active through walking and strength training, spending time with family, and relaxing with their two dogs, Gracie and Cooper. The Patton community is excited to welcome Mrs. Rivera home as she begins this new chapter of leadership and service.



Erin Rivera

Peters Elementary School (K-3)

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



Jean Camp
Principal

Transitional Kindergarten at Peters K-3: Laying the Foundation for Lifelong Learning

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a vital bridge between preschool and kindergarten, offering young learners a strong foundation in both academic and social-emotional development. Grounded in the principles of early childhood education, TK emphasizes learning through play, exploration, and intentional teaching—fostering essential skills that support children through all future stages of growth.

In our TK classrooms, students are rapidly developing language, motor skills, emotional regulation, and cognitive abilities. TK classrooms create environments that nurture curiosity, encourage problem-solving, and support collaboration—all while providing structured opportunities to build early literacy and numeracy skills.

By focusing on the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally—TK lays the groundwork for success in kindergarten and beyond. It fosters resilience, adaptability, and the foundational skills needed to navigate more complex learning in elementary school and throughout life.



Communication, team work and sharing are at the core of this activity.

Peters Elementary School (4-6)

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



Sean Dishong
Principal

A New Opportunity for Student Leadership

We are so excited to announce a new program at Peters 4-6 Elementary that we think will help take our already positive and welcoming school culture to the next level. This year, we are kicking off our first-ever Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) team. PAL is a national student leadership and service program that has been around for over 40 years and seeks to empower students to become positive peer role models, prevent bullying, provide academic and social support, and build school spirit and pride. We are starting with 18 students in the fifth and sixth grade that were selected by their peers for being kind and caring leaders on campus and we will be adding new fourth graders during the school year. These

amazing student leaders help connect classmates with good friends, plan school events with teachers, and serve their peers as mentors and mediators. We are so proud of the work they have already put in and are excited to see how this group of phenomenal student leaders help set the tone for kindness and excellence on campus.



Peters' PAL Team show off their "You can hang with me" shirts they will wear on campus to help students see who they can hang out with if they need a friend or some help.

Post *Elementary School*

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



Jamie Shippee
Principal

High Honor for PBIS Excellence

Post Elementary School is proud to celebrate earning the Silver Implementation Award for Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS). This recognition highlights the school's commitment to fostering a positive, inclusive, and supportive learning environment. At Post, students

embody what it means to be a Post scholar by demonstrating a positive attitude, acting responsibly, working hard, and showing respect (PAWS). Building on this foundation, Post expanded its inclusive practices this year by opening a new program for students with moderate to severe needs. These students are active participants in the PBIS system, earning PAWS slips and being celebrated alongside their peers. The addition of the program has enriched the Post community, further demonstrating the school's belief that every child can contribute to and benefit from a

positive school culture. Together, PBIS and Post's inclusive programming are creating a campus where all students are supported, respected, and given the chance to shine.



Students show off their PAWS slips earned for demonstrating positive behavior.

Ralston *Intermediate School*

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



Feather Hocking
Principal

Celebrating Inclusion

At Ralston, we are proud to celebrate inclusion by creating opportunities for all students to learn, grow, and shine. Our Special Education MS class provides a hands-on learning opportunity called The Eagle Brew Cart. It allows students to learn valuable life skills while running a coffee service for staff across campus each

Thursday. Students' teamwork, responsibility, and customer service skills not only fuels our campus but also highlights the meaningful ways students can contribute. Our student leadership class, ASB, and our Unified Physical Education class includes students with and without disabilities building leadership skills and friendships while working together to support schoolwide events, fitness and strengthening our community. Through all of this, Ralston staff and students are building a school culture where every student is included, supported, and given the opportunity to succeed.



Ralston's Eagle Brew Cart is run by Special Education students who learn important skills and enjoy providing this popular service to staff.

Rancho Alamitos *High School*

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



Curtis Bruno
Principal

Building Futures through Skilled Trades

Rancho Alamitos High School is thrilled to welcome 44 students to our brand-new Skilled Trades Pathway for the 2025-2026 school year! We are proud to introduce Mr. Ismael Castillo as our Skilled Trades instructor. With years of hands-on

experience in the industry, Mr. Castillo is eager

to guide and inspire our students as they explore careers in the skilled trades.

The Skilled Trades Pathway at Rancho Alamitos High School is a comprehensive four-year pre-apprenticeship program designed to equip students with the skills and certifications necessary to enter apprenticeships

immediately after high school. Students will also gain essential safety training and have exciting opportunities to collaborate with industry partners, including the Western States Carpenters Union.

We are proud to offer this outstanding program, providing our students with valuable experience and preparing them for lifelong success!



District leaders, local elected officials and city partners join together for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the new Skilled Trades Pathway.

Riverdale *Tech Academy*

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



Jason Shabet
Principal

Committed to Academic and Personal Growth

Riverdale Elementary in Garden Grove is excited to start the new school year with several positive developments. Our students managed to continue their growth on the SBAC state exams and have shown a 12 point

increase over the past two years in ELA and nearly 15 points in Science. In addition, Math scores showed a 9 point growth over the same period. To start this school year, Riverdale is happy to initiate Folkloric Dance for our students in grades 3-6 through the acclaimed Mariachi Del Sol Academy in Los Angeles. In addition, we are excited to partner with OCDE to bring the PAL program to our upper grade students to help foster community

involvement and leadership skills. The PAL students will help emphasize the character traits that we promote monthly in our assemblies to help student achieve Goal 2 of the GGUSD Strategic Plan.



Riverdale students showcase their student awards demonstrating character traits like leadership and responsibility.

Rosita *Elementary School*

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



Cheryl DeLos Reyes-Ruiz
Principal

Connecting with Community

Rosita Elementary School proudly hosted a Taco Fiesta Luncheon for families as a highlight of Hispanic Cultural Month, creating a joyful and welcoming space to celebrate Hispanic heritage together. Families gathered to enjoy a variety of delicious tacos and festive music with a special song sung by Rosita's choir. Colorful decorations set the tone for a lively, community-centered event. The luncheon offered an opportunity for parents, students, and staff to connect, share stories, and learn more about the rich traditions and cultural contributions of Hispanic communities. It was a meaningful and memorable celebration that honored diversity and strengthened the school's sense of unity and belonging.



Rosita Elementary Schools students and families connected with a special luncheon for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Russell *Elementary Language Academy*

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



Carol Haase
Principal

Empowering Future Leaders

Russell's Latinos Unidos (LU) student leaders serve as the Student Council leadership group, with 20 members selected from many eager fifth and sixth grade applicants this year. The LU mission is to prepare Latino/a students for higher education and future success with a vision

of building community involvement, cultural awareness, academic support, and strong leadership. Members meet bi-weekly to share ideas, plan events, support Spirit Days, and promote kindness throughout the school. In addition to learning about Mexican heritage, LU leaders play a central role in spirit assemblies and community initiatives, making a positive impact across campus.



Students in Russell Elementary's Latinos Unidos Club proudly serve as the school's Student Council leadership group.

Santiago High School

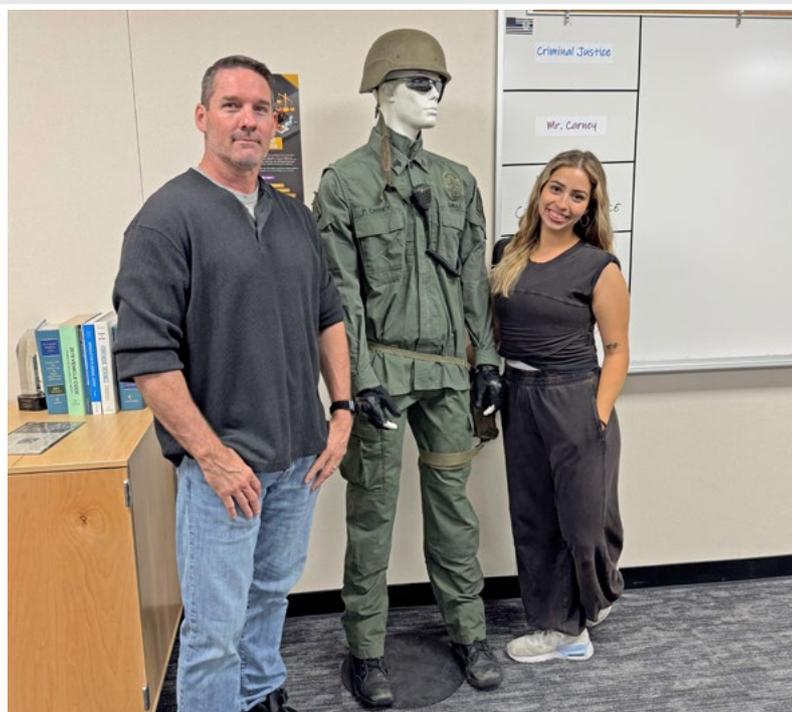
12342 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6215 • www.santiagohs.org



Christine Pijl
Principal

Santiago's Newest CTE and VAPA Opportunities

Two new teachers, Mr. Carney and Mrs. Bermudez, have introduced new programs at Santiago High School this year: Criminal Justice and Dance. For the past few years, students have expressed an interest in Criminal Justice as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) class on campus. By popular demand, Santiago introduced the first of this CTE Pathway with two periods of Criminal Justice. Next year, Santiago will add the Pathway completer class called Forensic Science CSI for Dual Enrollment college/high school credit. In addition, students were introduced and excited to participate in mini dance lessons last year in Physical Education. As a result, Introduction to Dance opened up and Folklórico returned as dance classes for Physical Education or Elective Credit. Dance Club has been established for students unable to take dance class. In addition, Folklórico Club and Drill continue to be popular performance programs.



Mr. Carney and Mrs. Bermudez provide new opportunities to Santiago Students with a new Criminal Justice Pathway and dance course.

Simmons Elementary School

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



Dr. Tanya De Leon
Principal

Simmons Dolphins are Making Waves

Simmons Elementary is proud to celebrate the inaugural year of our district's third Spanish language dual immersion program! Our school welcomed our new families with a variety of community events such as our "Picnic with a Loved One" and annual pancake breakfast.

Please reach out to the Simmons Office if you are interested in learning more about our language program! We will be giving tours of our TK and K classrooms starting this November. You will want to visit before the priority enrollment window closes on January 31st.

Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that Simmons is the recipient of the "Save the Music" Grant that has provided our lead music teacher with world-class training in music pedagogy as well as \$30,000 in additional musical instruments including xylophones, drums and ukuleles. Our Simmons Dolphins are making waves with our Spanish dual language immersion and hands-on music enrichment!



Simmons Dual Immersion students enjoy reading books from our new Spanish library book collection.

Skylark *Preschool*

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



Esther Atherton
Principal

Making Learning Fun

This year marks an exciting step forward for Skylark Preschool as we adopt Frog Street curriculum across all three of our programs: State, Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC), and Fee-Based preschool classrooms. Frog Street brings a unified, research-based approach that nurtures the whole child, combining academic readiness with social-emotional development. This work directly supports our district's Goal 2, developing personal skills by giving children daily opportunities to practice independence, confidence, and collaboration. By using the same high-quality curriculum in every program, Skylark ensures that all of our scholars benefit from consistent instruction, meaningful learning experiences, and a strong foundation for future school success. We are also excited to expand our reach by opening new fee-based preschool classrooms at Enders Elementary. Early education is where futures take root, and Skylark is proud to give every scholar the strongest possible start.



Skylark Preschool introduced Frog Street curriculum making it fun for preschoolers to engage in learning.

Stanford *Elementary School*

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



Brian Ball
Principal

Preparing for the Future: Stanford's College and Career Mentoring Program Begins

At Stanford, we are proud to support GGUSD Goal 3 – College and Career Readiness by launching an exciting opportunity for our sixth-grade students: the College and Career Mentoring Program (CCMP).

This program connects our sixth graders with college students who once walked the same path — graduates from Garden Grove high schools who are now pursuing higher education. Through this mentorship, our students will gain firsthand knowledge about college life, the steps to get there, and the importance of setting goals early.

To celebrate the launch, we had the honor of welcoming our GGUSD Superintendent, Dr. Gabriela Mafi, who led a motivational assembly to kick off the program and encourage students to begin thinking about and planning for their futures.

This initiative is an important step in helping our students develop the academic skills (GGUSD Goal 1) and personal skills (GGUSD Goal 2) they'll need for

future success. We're excited to provide this meaningful experience that empowers our sixth grade scholars to work hard, plan ahead, and set meaningful and achievable goals on their pathway to college and career success.



Dr. Mafi presented to sixth grade students at Stanford Elementary about the College and Career Mentoring Program (CCMP).

Stanley Elementary School

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



Angie Balias
Principal

Building Community Through Family Connections

At Stanley Elementary, we believe that strong family engagement is the foundation of a thriving school community. By creating meaningful opportunities for families to come together, we foster connections that extend beyond the classroom and strengthen the bonds between home and school. Events such as Lunch with a Loved One, Pastries with the Principal, and Family Nights with

PTA invite students, parents, and guardians to build a sense of belonging for everyone. These gatherings not only showcase the creativity of our students but also provide families with a chance to connect with each other, building a sense of community. Family engagement activities are more than just events—they are opportunities to grow relationships, encourage participation, and celebrate the diverse voices that make Stanley Elementary special. Through shared experiences, we continue to build a supportive, inclusive community where every family feels valued and every child can succeed.



At a recent family event, students and families came together to create art and build connections with others in the school community.

Sunnyside Elementary School

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



Marcie Griffith
Principal

Celebrating Culture and Success at Sunnyside Elementary!

The 2025-26 school year is off to a great start at Sunnyside Elementary! This month we were excited to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month with a very special assembly featuring the talented Santiago High School Folklorico dancers. Their wonderful performance was one of the many ways we celebrate our diverse community.

Sunnyside staff are anchored in our commitment to excellence and ensuring students have the best learning experiences possible. Sunnyside remains dedicated to our AVID principles, has once again achieved recognition as a PBIS Platinum School, and is fully invested in achieving our district goals. We're excited to provide every student with the rigorous and supportive academic experience they need for future success. To see more of the wonderful things happening at Sunnyside, follow us on social media @sunnysidesuns048.



Sunnyside Elementary students thank Santiago High School's folklorico dancers for performing at the school's Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration.

Violette *Elementary School*

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



Olivia Hufnagel
Principal

Empowering Future Leaders

The start of a new school year brings exciting opportunities for scholars to grow academically, personally, and socially at Violette Elementary. Leadership is at the heart of our school culture, with students stepping up as change agents through roles like Student Council, PBIS Ambassadors, intercom announcers, and class representatives. These experiences give our scholars voice and choice in shaping

their school journey. In addition, extracurricular programs such as *Disney Musicals in Schools*, *Kids Run OC*, *Child Creativity Lab*, *CCMP*, and *BGC* add energy and excitement to our campus life, encouraging teamwork, creativity, and perseverance. As proud Violette Vikings, we celebrate every milestone together. This year, earning PBIS Platinum Recognition is a powerful reflection of the unity and strength within our community. At Violette, our core values—Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Kind—guide everything we do and remind us that true success is built on character, connection, and courage.



Students show off their leadership skills in the recent Student Council election.

Virtual Learning Academy

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



Eric Hansen
Principal

Virtual Voices, United Against Hate

We are proud to announce that the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) has been officially designated by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) as a No Place for Hate school, thanks to the inspiring leadership of teacher and advisor Mrs. Collette Martin. This prestigious recognition reflects our school community's

commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment for all students.

Students enrolled in the VLA participate throughout the year in meaningful programs and activities that promote kindness, celebrate diversity, and actively combat bullying and discrimination. This achievement highlights the dedication of our students, staff, and families to building a welcoming space where every voice is valued, and everyone can thrive.

Together, we are creating a culture of empathy and respect and proving that virtual learning can be a powerful platform for positive change. Join us in celebrating this milestone and continuing a legacy to make the Virtual Learning Academy truly a No Place for Hate.



Wakeham *Elementary School*

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



Sarah Mershon
Principal

Supporting and Celebrating Student Success

At Wakeham Elementary, students, staff, and families work together to achieve our district's three goals. Students receive extension and interventions to support their progress. We are proud of our students' academic growth and celebrate those who have reclassified from English Learner to English Proficient—a wonderful achievement!

We continue to achieve our personal skills goals through the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system, where kids are excited to earn ROAR tickets and spend them at the ROAR store. Furthermore, through AVID, our entire staff helps students learn and practice the scholarly habits that lead to life-long success.

Wakeham Wildcats love when our families join us for special events and assemblies. Students receive recognition at these assemblies, cheered on by parents and

community members. Here, we also build our school community connections, character traits, and cultural appreciation. We lift up our Wakeham students as Wildcats while celebrating the unique contributions of each family and the diverse cultures they represent.



Students participated in the National Hispanic Heritage Month assembly, showing their appreciation through dressing up in outfits that celebrate the many Hispanic cultures.

Walton *Intermediate School*

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



Marci Loo
Principal

Connecting and Collaborating

The 2025–26 school year at Walton Intermediate is off to a strong and exciting start. We are proud to announce that Walton has been awarded the Community Schools Grant, which will provide new opportunities

to support students, families, and staff. As part of this

grant, Walton welcomed a new teacher coach who is already helping guide the work on campus. Recently, the school hosted a full-day meeting where a team of parents, teachers, students, and staff came together to identify needs and brainstorm solutions. The group agreed to focus on three key areas: academic enhancements, increased socio-emotional

support, and greater parent involvement. Ideas included expanding after-school programs and offering more family-centered events to strengthen the school community. At Walton, we believe every student should feel a sense of belonging. With the support of this grant, we are excited to bring that vision to life.



Warren *Elementary School*

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



Kyle Benham
Principal

Wildcat Pride Shines at Warren!

Warren Elementary has introduced a brand-new PBIS Book Vending Machine to celebrate positive behavior and nurture a love for reading among our Wildcats. This exciting initiative connects PBIS principles with literacy promotion, allowing students to earn tokens by demonstrating that they are prepared, respectful, making an effort, and solving problems. With their tokens, students select brand-new, age-appropriate books directly from the vending machine! This positive reinforcement not only builds a strong culture of literacy but also highlights the values of Wildcat Pride. In addition, Warren Elementary recently welcomed families for Back-to-School Night, where our community enjoyed an evening of food, fun, laughter, and meaningful connections with teachers and staff. The energy was high, and the Wildcat spirit was strong! Together, these initiatives remind us that at Warren, learning, respect, and pride go hand-in-hand.



Students love earning tokens for the school's Book Vending Machine.

Woodbury *Elementary School*

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



Nathan Bellamy
Principal

Woodbury Focuses on Attendance with Informative Parent Meeting

Woodbury Elementary is emphasizing the vital role of regular school attendance this year, kicking off the effort with an important parent meeting hosted by the principal and assistant principal. The event featured Susana Bugarin, the school's social worker, who presented on the significant academic and social benefits of students attending school consistently. To encourage this, the school has implemented a fun, monthly competition: the class with the highest attendance percentage earns the coveted school tiger to display in their classroom. Furthermore, individual students who achieve perfect attendance each month have the exciting chance to win a special ribbon recognizing their commitment to being in class every day.



Woodbury classrooms with the highest attendance earn the school tiger to display in their classroom.

Zeyen Elementary School

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



Gary Gerstner
Principal

Zeyen Elementary Named California Distinguished School Again!

We are proud to announce that Zeyen Elementary has once again been recognized as a California Distinguished Elementary School—earning this honor in 2017 and now again in 2025! This

prestigious award highlights schools that demonstrate exceptional student achievement and a strong commitment to closing the achievement gap.

Our success is a direct result of the skill, dedication, and passion of our teachers and staff. Through effective instructional practices and a commitment to continuous growth, they ensure every student is challenged and supported to reach their potential.

We also thank our families for their partnership in reinforcing learning and building strong routines at home. Together, we have created a culture of excellence that prepares our students for success today and in the future.



Zeyen Elementary School is honored by GGUSD's Board of Education as a 2025 California Distinguished School.

Novelist –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: SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com Please put GGUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by December 15, 2025
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| COMPUTER | BROWSER |
| EDITOR | GOOGLE |
| IPAD | INTERNET |
| SPELLCHECK | BING |
| PRINTER | ASPIRIN |
| PUBLISHER | KEYBOARD |
| NOTEPAD | TELEPHONE |
| READERS | WIFI |
| PENCIL | IMAGINATION |
| IDEAS | |
| PEN | |

