

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District



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February 2026

Unlocking Student Dreams



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Welcome to 2026! I am honored to serve as the new Superintendent of Hacienda La Puente Unified School District. My first official day was January 5, 2026, and I have been spending the first 30 days visiting all of our schools, walking classrooms and attending community events. During my brief tenure, I have met dedicated teachers, support staff and members of our leadership team that are focused on providing high quality instruction through a variety of specialized programs and services throughout our 27 schools. According to the most recent California School Dashboard data released in November of 2025, our District demonstrated growth in English Language Arts, Mathematics and on the College and Career Indicator. Additionally, our District increased the percentage of students that met the UC/CSU requirements and the percentage of students completing at least one Career

Technical Education (CTE) Pathway. Improvement in these annual measurements demonstrates that our District has strong academic programs that support academic growth for our students.

I joined Hacienda La Puente Unified School District as Superintendent with over 28 years of experience in public education. Throughout my career, I have served in a wide range of educational leadership and instructional roles, including assistant superintendent of educational services; senior director of assessment, research, data analysis, and educational technology; director of secondary curriculum; middle school principal; and elementary school teacher. Each role has reinforced my dedication to public education and to supporting students, staff, families and our local community. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Superintendent and I look forward to building safe, engaging learning environments rooted in transparency and collaboration with all of our educational partners.

School News

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Child Development

15801 Sierra Vista Ct., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/933-6544 • <https://www.hpschools.org/district/preschool-child-development>



Abigail Querubin-Villareal
Director

Engaging Our Head Start Families in Worldwide Math

On January 13, 2026, our Head Start families gathered at the Willow Conference Center for an exciting and interactive Worldwide Math Night. The evening was dedicated to promoting math learning through hands-on activities, engaging games, and creative puzzles. Nearly 70 families joined us for this special event, demonstrating their strong commitment to their children's education.

Families enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner while participating in a “make-it-and-take-it” math game activity, designed to support continued learning at home. Each family also received number train puzzles and tactile number matching games to help spark their child's interest in math and reinforce key mathematical concepts beyond the classroom.



One of our Head Start Policy Council parents, Zahira Barajas, shared heartfelt remarks about her family's experience in the program and how Head Start prepared her child for a successful transition into Transitional Kindergarten. Her testimony highlighted the lasting impact of early learning and family engagement.

Ms. Sandra Tapia, Head Start Teacher-on-Special-Assignment, encouraged families to consider enrolling their children for a second year in the program. She shared, “As a Head Start teacher, I have seen firsthand how well-rounded our students become. They develop the social, emotional, and academic skills needed to grow into confident leaders.”

Tanya Aguilera, Head Start Policy Council Chairperson, expressed, “It was beautiful. All the kids got an activity set at the event and a gift to bring home. I feel like I am being taken care of. I felt appreciated since I am the one who takes care of everyone else.”

This memorable evening would not have been possible without our valued partnership with Lakeshore Learning Materials and the dedication of our Teachers-on-Special-Assignment, Family Service Specialists, Senior Office Assistants, and Administrators. Their collective efforts made Worldwide Math Night a meaningful and successful experience for all.



Adult Education

14101 E. Nelson Ave., La Puente, CA 91746 • 626/933-3915 • <https://www.hlp schools.org/community/adult-education>

Hacienda La Puente Adult Education Reintroduces ESL Outreach Program at Three HLPUSD Elementary Schools

By Elbia Sarabia and Micah Goins

Hacienda La Puente Adult Education (HLP AE) is pleased to announce the return of its ESL Outreach Program, relaunched last fall at Baldwin, California, and Lassalette elementary school sites of the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District. Previously offered prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was reinstated to better serve parents at host elementary schools.

The ESL Outreach Program is designed specifically for parents who drop off their children and can transition directly into class on the same campus. Classes are held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., providing convenient access to English language instruction in a familiar, supportive environment. “This program reflects our commitment to removing barriers and meeting

families where they are,” said Elbia Sarabia, Director of Adult Academics and Community Education. “By offering classes on elementary campuses, we support parents while strengthening school-family partnerships.”

Interested individuals are encouraged to visit HLP AE.com for registration details.



HACIENDA HEIGHTS CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

AMAZING ACTIVITIES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR!

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One FREE Lesson



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YOUR KID'S
CODING
WITH BELTS



THE
CODENINJAS
HACIENDA HEIGHTS
BACK TO
SCHOOL



THE LITTLE DANCE WORLD

1 FREE class
\$22 value

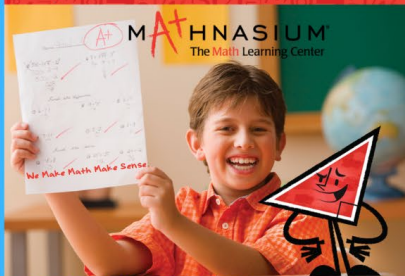


EXQUISITE MUSIC

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We'll make math a bright spot
in your child's school year.



MATHNASIUM HACIENDA HEIGHTS

Free Math Assessment
and Learning Plan



NATALIA HUANG PIANO STUDIO

One free
30 min lesson



Baldwin Academy (TK–5)

1616 Griffith Ave., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/933-3701 • baldwin.hlpschools.org



Kelly Arena
Principal

Honoring Diversity, Building Unity

At Baldwin Academy, we are committed to building an inclusive school community through meaningful ethnic studies as part of our Community Schools Initiative. By honoring diverse cultures, histories, and perspectives, we help students develop empathy, respect, and a strong sense of belonging.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, Baldwin hosted a community celebration featuring folklórico dance performances, music, and food. Families were invited to create ofrendas that were added to a shared community altar, strengthening connections across our school community. In Filipino American Heritage Month, students learned about Filipino history and culture and participated in traditional dances.

Baldwin is excited to continue celebrating diversity and creating meaningful experiences that bring our community together. In February, Baldwin will recognize Black History Month with a mural honoring Black leaders

centered on the theme, “How can one person make a difference?” Lunar New Year will be celebrated with a vibrant lion dance, authentic food, and engaging activities for the entire family.

“By recognizing and learning about the diversity of cultures around the world, we cultivate understanding, strengthen our community, and foster a sense of belonging for every student,” said Principal Arena.



Baldwin Academy students participate in the traditional Filipino folk dance, Tinikling during recess.

California Elementary School (TK–5)

1111 N. California Ave., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/933-5201 • california.hlpschools.org



Yesenia De La Peña
Principal

Kindness Week

California Elementary celebrated Kindness Week from January 26–30, highlighting the importance of compassion, empathy, and positive school culture. The week began with a spirited Spirit Week that engaged students and staff across campus. Activities included Pajama Day, which created a fun and welcoming atmosphere, and a meaningful buddy activity that paired students across grade levels to

build connections and practice kindness through shared experiences.

During the week Student Council greeted and cheered students as they entered school, setting a positive tone for the day. Their leadership and enthusiasm helped reinforce the message that kindness can be shown through simple gestures and encouraging words. Throughout the week, classrooms participated in discussions and activities focused on kindness, respect, and inclusion, allowing students to reflect on how their actions impact others and contribute to a supportive learning environment.

Kindness Week served as a reminder that fostering a caring school community is a shared responsibility.

Through student leadership, collaborative activities, and intentional conversations, California Elementary continues to promote a culture where students feel valued, supported, and empowered to treat others with respect. The success of Kindness Week reflects the school's ongoing commitment to social-emotional learning and to creating a safe, welcoming environment where all students can thrive.



Cedarlane Academy (K-8)

16333 Cedarlane Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-8001 • cedarlane.hpschools.org



Kim Lee
Principal

TBird Nation Buzzing with Achievement and Creativity

Cedarlane Academy has had an extraordinary season filled with innovation, performance, and school pride. A special congratulations goes to eighth-grader

Kevin Tang, who was named 3M and Discovery Education's "America's Top Young Scientist." Kevin earned this national honor for inventing a fall-detection monitoring device designed to protect and support senior citizens, an incredible accomplishment that brings pride to our entire TBird Nation.

Our campus has also been alive with the arts. Second-grade VAPA theatrical performances lit up the stage with lively storytelling and joyful energy. Cedarlane's brand-new

Mariachi program launched this year, filling the halls with vibrant music and cultural pride. In addition, our beginning and advanced band students showcased months of dedication at the Winter Band Concert, delivering impressive performances for families and friends.

STEM has been equally busy. Cedarlane proudly hosted its first-ever FLL Robotics Qualifier, giving students the chance to demonstrate their coding, creativity, and teamwork. Our CyberPatriot team successfully completed two competitive rounds, showing tremendous growth and technical skill.

Rounding out the celebrations, our TK-5 Holiday Performances brought festive cheer to the entire community, and our Speech and Debate Team earned 3rd place among large schools.

There is truly a lot happening at Cedarlane, where students lead, create, and shine every day.



Fairgrove Academy (K-8)

15540 Fairgrove Ave., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/933-8501 • fairgrove.hpschools.org



Octavio Pérez
Principal

Celebrating Our Newly Remodeled Classrooms

We are excited to share that our newly remodeled classrooms are transforming the learning experience for our students. These bright, modern, and flexible learning spaces are designed to inspire collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. With improved lighting, updated flooring, and adaptable furniture, students now have

access to environments that support both independent learning and group activities.



Thanks to the generous support of our community through recent school bond measures, our classrooms now feature updated technology, enhanced safety elements, and redesigned layouts that reflect the needs of 21st century education. These upgrades are already making a meaningful difference, allowing students to engage more deeply in their learning and providing teachers with the tools and classroom designs needed to deliver innovative instruction.

We are truly grateful to our community for investing in the future of our students and helping us create learning environments where every child can thrive.



Glen A. Wilson High School

16455 Wedgeworth Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/934-4416 • wihs.hlschools.org



Dr. Danielle Kenfield
Principal

Glen A. Wilson High School Welcomes Congresswoman Sanchez!

Linda T. Sanchez, Congressional Representative for District 38, joined the Wildcats on Monday, January 26 for Wilson High School's Ribbon-Cutting ceremony marking the grand opening of the newly renovated Media Center. This project

was made possible by an \$850,000 community projects grant from Congresswoman, Sanchez. The grant funded new flooring and lighting, electrical upgrades, presentation technology, and new furniture making it a sought after space for student collaboration. During this visit, Congresswoman Sanchez recognized the 2025 Congressional App Challenge winners. The winning app, titled SpeakSmart, was created by Wilson High School students

Vivian Hsu, Warren Ye, and Wilson Zhu. The application utilizes machine learning to assist users in building confidence in public speaking. This spring, the Wilson students will visit the U.S. Capitol for #HouseofCode to showcase their application to members Congress.



Grandview College Preparatory Academy (6-8)

795 N. Grandview Ln., Valinda, CA 91744 • 626/934-5801 • grandview.hlschools.org



Theresa Lei
Principal

Griz Botz 67625

Grandview College Preparatory Academy is bursting with pride for our robotics superstars, Griz Botz 67625! Following a season defined by grit and gears, the team delivered an exciting performance at the First Lego League (FLL) State Competition in Mission Viejo.

Their hard work and technical evolution did not go unnoticed. We are thrilled to announce that the Team Griz Botz 67625 brought home the prestigious Breakthrough Award! This honor is reserved for teams that demonstrate significant progress in their confidence, capability, and team spirit, perfectly embodying the core values of FLL.

From mastering complex coding missions to presenting innovative solutions for this year's

challenge, our students proved that they are among the brightest young engineers in the state. Seeing our Griz Botz tackle high-pressure matches with such poise was truly the highlight of the season.

Congratulations to the students, coaches, and families who made this phenomenal journey possible. Way to go, Griz Botz!



Grazide Elementary School (TK-5)

2850 Leopold Ave., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-6100 • grazide.hllpschools.org



Dr. Samuel Yi
Principal

Grazide Launches New Robotics Enrichment Program

Grazide Elementary School is proud to introduce a new Robotics Enrichment Program using Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a nationally recognized STEM curriculum designed to build strong foundations in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The program provides students with engaging, hands-on learning experiences that promote curiosity, creativity, and collaboration.

During enrichment sessions, students work in small teams using PLTW robotics kits to design, build, test, and refine their projects. Through this process, students practice problem-solving, critical thinking, and perseverance while learning how real-world engineers approach challenges. The collaborative nature of the program also strengthens communication skills and teamwork.

The Robotics Enrichment Program reflects Grazide's ongoing commitment to innovative instruction and meaningful enrichment opportunities. By introducing



students to engineering concepts at an early age, the program helps nurture confidence, creativity, and a growth mindset while preparing students for future academic and career pathways in STEM fields.

Grazide looks forward to continuing to expand enrichment opportunities that inspire learning and empower students to explore, create, and succeed.

Kwis Elementary School (TK-5)

1925 S. Kwis Ave., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-2101 • kwis.hllpschools.org



Vivienne Thomas
Principal

Kwis Leadership Opportunities

At Kwis, we are proud to offer several leadership opportunities for all learners. Not only do we have an afterschool Leadership Club for Tk-5 students, we also have upper grade leaders in our Student Leadership Team and Student Council. Through these avenues, our leaders partake in various activities. Students lead our daily morning announcements, our Family Friday Assemblies, our Student Success Assemblies,



and other schoolwide spirit days and activities. Through these student leadership opportunities, we also promote student advocacy, involving our students to partake in surveys, feedback and collaborative circles to advise on decisions to better the school. Recently, our student leaders promoted Cancer Awareness activities, Toys for Tots drive, and a Law Enforcement celebration. Soon, they will be connected with the American Heart Association and support for more family and community connections in the spring.

La Puente High School

15615 E. Nelson Ave., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/934-6797 • lphs.hipschools.org



Dr. Lisa Lopez
Principal

From La Puente High to the Ivy League: Diego Novelo Ojeda's QuestBridge Success

La Puente High School is honored to celebrate senior Diego Novelo Ojeda, who has been named a QuestBridge National College Match Scholar. This fall, Diego will attend Columbia University in New York City on a full scholarship.



During a period of limited resources and growing challenges, Diego's leadership helped unify the student body and strengthen communication between students and staff. His QuestBridge match reflects years of academic excellence, resilience, and dedication to his community, and marks a proud moment for everyone in the La Puente High School community.

Diego is a top-ranked student in his graduating class and a well-known leader on campus. He serves in ASB Student Government, plays Varsity Football, and participates in the Peer Counseling Program, where he supports classmates through workshops and school events. Throughout his time at La Puente High School, Diego has been recognized for his integrity, work ethic, and commitment to service.



Lassalette School (K-5)

14333 Lassalette St., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/933-3001 • lassalette.hipschools.org



Lisa Mannino
Principal

Lassalette's Here to Help

As a second-year Community School, Lassalette Community School continues to strengthen learning by supporting both academic and student needs. Central to this work is Community School Site Specialist Ms. Rosa, who works closely with families to remove barriers that affect student success.

Through integrated student supports, families can request assistance based on their needs. One key resource is Lassalette's open pantry, which provides access to food, hygiene products, clothing, school supplies, and shoes. This support helps ensure students come to school ready to learn, focused, and supported.

Ms. Rosa collaborates with staff and families to connect students with appropriate resources in a respectful and responsive way, reinforcing the school's commitment to equity and inclusion. By addressing basic needs alongside classroom instruction, Lassalette creates a learning environment where students feel cared for and supported, and are better prepared to engage fully in their education.



Ms. Rosa Lassalette Community School Site Specialist

Los Altos *Elementary School (TK-5)*

15565 Los Altos Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-2301 • losaltos.hlschools.org



Rosalie Sinapi
Principal

Kids Shine in STEM Learning

Los Altos Elementary students shine in learning science technology engineering and math through in class and after school activities. During the school day, the students are exposed to the University of California at Davis, C-STEM program. Over the course of six years, 10 staff members have been trained in this innovative program. Students focus on lessons online and through Roboblocky. The curriculum combines robotics along with math to help support skills directly related to current math lessons. As students progress, they start work with robots in class where they may work in pairs or groups to help solve problems.

Additionally, Los Altos Elementary has two afterschool robotics teams that compete in First Lego League. This Fall all three teams competed locally to earn awards and represent the school. Students are full with pride when talking about their experiences with STEM on campus.

“Last year, I competed in C-STEM. My team was fun and this year I started with FLL afterschool and have made a lot of memories. I am excited to be part of the team,” said Team Tiger Knight member Zeceriah. This Spring our students are teaming up with Newton Middle School to start a combined team to compete in May at the Spring Showdown in Rosemead. We can’t wait to show off our robot at our next competition.



Los Altos *High School*

15325 E. Los Robles Ave., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/934-5418 • lahs.hlschools.org



Jeffrey Hess
Principal

Los Altos High School Athletics: Tradition, Excellence, and a Historic Milestone

Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights has long been recognized for its strong and diverse athletic programs, fostering excellence, discipline, and school pride across all sports. From competitive league play to student-athlete development, the Conquerors continue to build a tradition of success both on and off the field.

At the heart of that tradition stands Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Jeff Lucas, who recently reached a remarkable milestone: 500 career wins coaching his alma mater. Over 30 years on the Los Altos sideline, Coach Lucas has been a constant presence, shaping generations of student-athletes through his commitment to hard work, integrity, and teamwork. His achievement reflects not only longevity, but sustained excellence and deep loyalty to the school he once attended as a student.

Coach Lucas’s milestone is a testament to the strength of Los Altos athletics and the lasting impact of leadership rooted in community, pride, and passion.



Los Molinos *Elementary School (TK-5)*

3112 Las Marias Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-2201 • losmolinos.hlschools.org



Erika Terrazas
Principal

Los Molinos Career Day

We had our Annual Career Day on February 13. We had about 40 presenters from parents, district employees, and community members. Our students from Leadership Club were the presenters escort throughout the morning as they went to different classrooms and presented their careers.



The students in the classroom were excited and had lots of questions. Students also had opportunities to see some on the emergency vehicles as well. Overall, the day was a great success!



Mesa Robles *School (TK-8)*

16060 Mesa Robles Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-6001 • mesarobles.hlschools.org



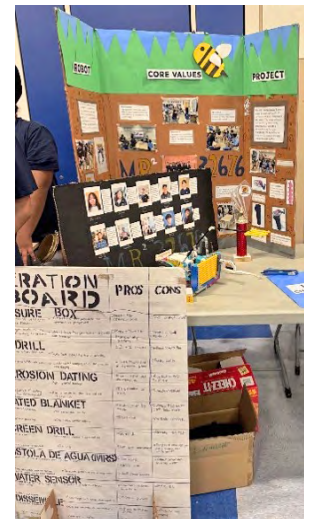
Sherri Franson
Principal

Mesa Robles Inaugural STEM Night

Mesa Robles School recently hosted its first STEM Night, an event that brought together the elementary and middle school communities to celebrate innovation and discovery. There were presentations by the school's competitive groups. Members of the HOSA (Future Health Professionals), Robotics, and Science Olympiad teams

showcased their recent projects. These demonstrations offered younger peers a look at the extracurricular opportunities awaiting them.

The inaugural STEM Night successfully fostered a sense of community and academic pride, leaving attendees inspired by the incredible talent and dedication of the Mesa Robles students. A special thank you to our coaches who work hard with all our teams!



Nelson Elementary School (TK-5)

330 N. California Ave., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/933-8401 • nelson.hipschools.org



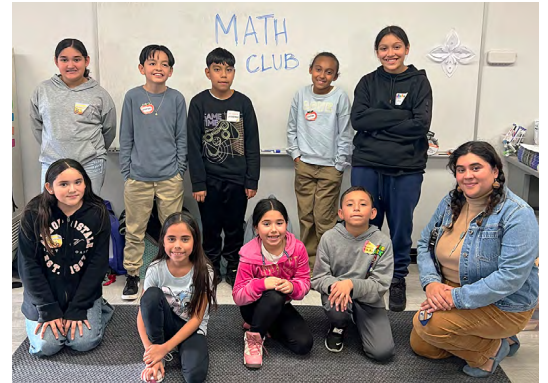
Collin Miller
Principal

Nelson Elementary Fosters Growth, Wellness, and Connection as a Community School

Our community school is more than a place of learning; it is a hub of growth, connection, and care for all stakeholders. By investing in ongoing professional development, our educators are empowered with innovative strategies that support both academic excellence and student well-being. After-school clubs and targeted tutoring programs extend learning beyond the classroom, giving

students opportunities to explore interests, build skills, and gain confidence in a supportive environment. Clubs such as board games, robotics, and gardening ignite student excitement while fostering collaboration, teamwork, and a strong sense of shared purpose.

Recognizing the importance of social-emotional health, the school has introduced calming kits that help students manage stress, regulate emotions, and stay focused throughout the day. In addition, family nights, student showcases, and community-wide events bring everyone together, strengthening relationships and fostering a sense of belonging.



Newton Middle School (6-8)

15616 Newton St., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-2401 • newton.hipschools.org



Ann Hanson
Principal

Bridging Language, Culture, and Community: Newton's Spanish Dual Immersion Program Shines

The Spanish Dual Immersion Program at Newton Middle School is truly something special. Our students are immersed daily in language, culture, and meaningful

experiences that help them grow as confident bilingual learners and global citizens. Beyond rigorous academics, students enjoy rich opportunities to connect language learning to real life.

During the holiday season, our Dual Immersion students spread joy by going caroling, sharing Spanish songs and traditions with the school community. They also participate in a heartwarming partnership with Los Altos Elementary School, where students have been writing pen pal letters in Spanish throughout the year. This ongoing exchange strengthens language skills while building lasting connections across grade levels.

The partnership recently came to life during a visit to Newton Middle School. Students met their pen pals in person, created ornaments together, and enjoyed breakfast while practicing Spanish in an authentic and joyful setting. These memorable experiences highlight the power and promise of our Spanish Dual Immersion Program at Newton.



Orange Grove Middle School (6-8)

14505 Orange Grove Ave., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-7001 • ogms.hlschools.org



Elizabeth Kane
Principal

Orange Grove Celebrates National School Counseling Week

This week Orange Grove Middle School is recognizing National School Counseling Week which highlights school counselors' tremendous impact in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. Our School Counselor, Mrs. Torres and School Counselor Intern, Ms. Shyanne, are offering engaging lunch time activities for students on topics such as being a good friend, expressing gratitude game, self-love challenge, right-brain left-brain learning survey and college lingo bingo.



Orange Grove students are familiar with learning positive mental health and academic success strategies throughout the school year. On a regular basis, counselors provide school-based counseling services, classroom lessons on social emotional topics, academic counseling support and school-wide campaigns like Start With Hello, a program designed to reduce social isolation, College Awareness Week and Career Day guest speakers. Other services our School Counselors provide are facilitating SST meetings, referrals to outside therapy services, coordinating donations to families, and promoting school-wide PBIS activities.



Palm Elementary School (TK-5)

14740 E. Palm Ave., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-7401 • palm.hlschools.org



Sandy Carbajal
Principal

Palm Elementary Community School Cancer Walk

February is World Cancer Awareness Month and Palm brings awareness to this devastating disease by hosting an Annual Cancer Walk with our school community. On Saturday, February 7th, our community came together to honor survivors, caregivers, and fighters. We walked in honor of our loved ones who lost the battle to cancer, as well. As part of the walk, we had booths our families visited and had an opportunity to receive a dental screening, vaccines, gather information from Department of Mental Health, visit with our afterschool vendor, Champions, visit with our local Fire Fighters, enjoy completing lots of arts and crafts, food vendors, and participate in raffles. We thank the community for coming together as we continue to fight for awareness.



Sierra Vista *Middle School* (6–8)

15801 Sierra Vista Ct., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/933-4001 • svms.hlpschools.org



Erika Valenzuela
Principal

Unlock Your Legend - at Sierra Vista Middle School

Sierra Vista Middle School's theme this year, Unlock Your Legend, is alive and thriving as our Vikings continue to lead, learn, and excel. Our Project LEAD (Life Experiences About Democracy) students attended their annual student conference, participating in workshops focused on local government, community resources, and ways to get involved and make a positive impact. The event featured city officials, our students, and Mrs. Brown, a pioneer of the program that has expanded across our district.



In our science classes, Vikings engage in hands-on investigations that emphasize collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity. Through experiments, projects, and inquiry-based learning, students are building strong scientific skills and developing a passion for discovery. Additionally, our girls attended the Whittier Conference for Girls, where they explored careers in math and science, sparking curiosity and confidence.

We also celebrated students for first-semester achievements, including Viking Valor, attendance, academic excellence, and honor rolls. This is just the beginning—there is so much more to come. Way to go, Vikings!



Sparks *Elementary School* (TK–5)

15151 E. Temple Ave., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/933-5101 • sparks.hlpschools.org



Dr. Jennifer Sandoval
Principal

Restorative Circles

This year, Sparks Elementary School has a partnership with Western Justice Center (WJC). WJC puts students in the driver's seat at their schools – as community leaders and builders. Our 4th and 5th grade have participated in restorative circles to help create community within their classroom.

With WJC, students learn core social and emotional skills, such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship building, and responsible decision-making. These skills are critical building

blocks to success in school and in their careers. This helps create a community. A few of our students will be attending the Peer Mediation Invitation next week to learn how to be peer mediators and lead restorative justice circles.



Sparks Middle School (6–8)

15100 E. Giordano St., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/933-5001 • spons.hplschoos.org

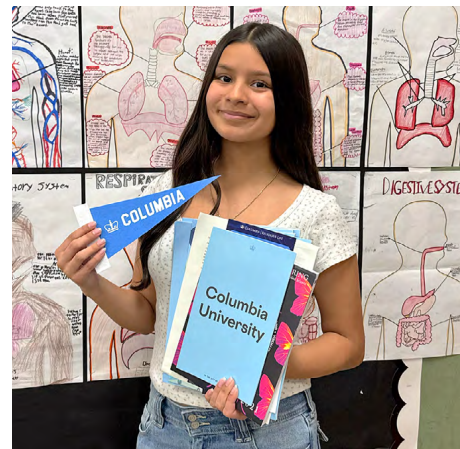


Dr. David Nieto
Principal

Sparks Middle School College Writing Campaign

Sparks Middle School supports its college campaign with a letter writing project. Every year, 600 students write a letter of interest to three colleges of their choice. After researching different careers, colleges, programs, and pathways, students write college letters in the fall that include questions about the college and an interest to

learn more. A few months later, many of these colleges and universities write back with additional information, college gear, pennants, and or supplies. Students look forward to receiving snail mail for the first time and hearing back from their colleges of their choice. This campaign at Sparks Middle Schools opens up the line of communication and interest for middle school students to begin thinking about their future before they enter high school. By the end of middle school, students will have the opportunity to reach out and interact with 9 different colleges.



Valinda School of Academics (TK–5)

1030 Indian Summer Ave., Valinda, CA 91744 • 626/933-4701 • valinda.hplschoos.org



Elizabeth Bermejo
Principal

Valinda School of Academics Second Grade Theatre Program

Valinda School of Academics proudly partners with the Southland Sings Theatre Program to provide a creative and enriching experience for second grade students. During a tenweek residency, students collaborate with

their classroom and theatre teacher to explore storytelling, performance, and teamwork. Together, they craft an original script and rehearse weekly, practicing lines and movement while building confidence and communication skills. The program nurtures creativity, literacy, and selfexpression in a supportive learning environment. At the end of the residency, families are invited to a culminating performance, offering parents a meaningful opportunity to witness their child's talent, growth, and hard work. This partnership

creates a memorable experience that students carry with them long after the final bow.



Valley Alternative *High School*

15430 Shadybend Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-3401 • valley.hlpschools.org



Joaquin Martinez
Principal

Strengthening Our Community School at Valley Alternative School

As a Community School at Valley Alternative School, we believe students thrive when school, family, and community work together. Yesenia Duran, our Community School Site Specialist, brings that vision to life each day through steady care, strong relationships, and practical problem-solving. She supports students and families by connecting them to resources such as food support, housing, health referrals, counseling links, and community programs. When families need help navigating school processes, attendance questions, or paperwork, Yesenia listens, explains options clearly, and follows through. She partners with staff to identify needs early, checks in with students, and helps create plans that feel realistic and respectful. Her welcoming presence helps families feel seen, and students feel safe asking for help. Because of Yesenia's dedication, barriers are reduced, communication is stronger, and our campus feels more connected, so students can stay focused, engaged, and ready to succeed today, tomorrow, and for every step ahead together.



Yesenia Duran, Community School Site Specialist

Wedgeworth *Elementary School (K-5)*

16949 Wedgeworth Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 • 626/933-8101 • wedgeworth.hlpschools.org



Dr. Paulina Cho
Principal

Celebration of Learning: Our Earth, Our Future

Wedgeworth Elementary's Open House on January 29th brought families together for a vibrant Celebration of Learning: Our Earth, Our Future, highlighting student creativity, innovation, and environmental stewardship. Students showcased interdisciplinary projects developed through weeks of research, hands-on

learning, and computer science integration. Using Scratch coding and student-designed robots, they modeled solutions to help protect and sustain Earth.

Kindergarteners shared how to care for the planet through dioramas of animals and their habitats, explaining ways to prevent habitat destruction. First graders presented research on coral reefs and marine life protection, while second graders explored pollination

through garden studies and digital books. Third graders demonstrated solar oven experiments focused on renewable energy. Fourth graders explained natural resource research and responsible energy use, and fifth graders examined Earth's systems while collaborating with the Rowland Water District on water conservation.

The evening celebrated student voice, scientific thinking, technological creativity, and a shared commitment to a more sustainable future.



William Workman *High School*

16303 E. Temple Ave., City of Industry, CA 91744 • 626/933-8801 • wohs.hlschools.org



Timothy Espinosa
Principal

Focused on School Community

For the 2025-26 school year, Workman High School's focus is school community and culture. With seniors one step closer to graduation, we thought it was important to get a head start on showing our incoming 8th graders what Workman is all about. On December 11, 2025, we hosted the 8th grade orientation. Students had an opportunity to see the great programs we offer, explore clubs and athletic programs,

and participate in a rally. Building upon the 8th grade orientation, we hosted our annual "Leader of the Pack". 8th grade students who have demonstrated academic excellence were invited to this event to be celebrated. Families enjoyed a great dinner, students played games, parents learned about the transition to high school, and our future scholars were strongly encouraged to join our Early College Academy. The future is looking bright at Workman High School!



Wing Lane *Elementary School (TK-5)*

16605 Wing Ln., Valinda, CA 91744 • 626/933-5901 • winglane.hlschools.org



Tabitha Hernandez-Blanton
Principal

Hub of Support

Wing Lane Elementary School's designation as a community school has deepened its impact far beyond the classroom, creating a hub of support where students and families can truly thrive. By addressing academic needs alongside basic necessities, Wing Lane ES ensures

students are ready to learn and feel cared for every day.

A key driver of this work is Community School Specialist Mrs. Rachel Heyrend, whose tireless efforts have expanded access to food, clothing, and hygiene distributions for families in need. Through strong partnerships and thoughtful coordination, Mrs. Heyrend has helped remove barriers that can distract from learning, providing dignity, consistency, and relief to our school community.



The results are felt campus-wide with increased engagement, stronger family connections, and a culture rooted in care. As Principal Mrs. Blanton shared, "When we support the whole child and the whole family, we change outcomes. Being a community school allows us to meet real needs in real time—and that makes all the difference for our students."

Wing Lane ES continues to shine as a place where community and education grow together.

Workman Elementary School (TK-5)

16000 Workman St., La Puente, CA 91744 • 626/933-4201 • workman.hipschools.org



Leslie Vandagriff
Acting Principal

Wolverine Speech & Debate

Speech & Debate is a districtwide program that gives students the opportunity to develop their public speaking skills by performing speeches and skits in a competitive environment. Students compete locally with the goal of advancing to the district and state level competitions.

Workman Elementary had nine students submit video speeches for initial qualification with eight advancing to the district-level



competition! Our coach, Ms. Gloria Prado, is in her second year coaching. She proudly took three students to the state competition last season where they earned Bronze medals. We are so excited to see what this year's competition brings and we are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication shown by our Speech & Debate team!



Things in the Sky—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: Schoolnewsday@gmail.com. Please put Hacienda La Puente in the subject line.

Entries must be received by April 15, 2026

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

STARS

SUN

MOON

AIRPLANE

KITE

BALLOON

JUPITER

MARS

MERCURY

SATURN

URANUS

RAIN

SNOW

SLEET

WIND

CLOUDS

SMOG

FOG

PLUTO

RAINBOW

ROCKET

