

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Orange Unified School District



Volume 18, Issue 82

June 2023

Orange's Annual May Parade



Orange Unified was well represented at the Plaza in Old Towne Orange.

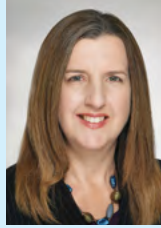
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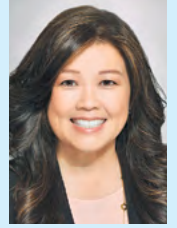
Kristin Erickson
Member



Madison Miner
Member



Ana Page
Member



Andrea Yamasaki
Member



Ernie Gonzalez
Acting Superintendent

It is a busy and exciting time as we rapidly approach the end of the school year. While we look forward to our graduation and promotion ceremonies in the coming weeks, we were proud to honor our 2023 Employees of the Year.

OUSD's Certificated Employees of the Year are Niccole Connally, Tashla McCabe, and Rebeca Nelson. Classified Employees of the Year are Maria Espitia, Son Tan, and Taia Thompson. Leadership

Employees of the Year are Christina Celeste-Russo, Raeanne Little, and Sheryl Anderson-Glass. More information about each nominee is on the OUSD website under News at <https://www.orangeusd.org/about-us/news/release-article/~board/2023/post/congratulations-to-our-2023-ousd-employees-of-the-year>

On May 10th, Orange Unified hosted its annual Employee of the Year celebration at Fred Kelly Stadium. Each school site Employee of the Year was called by name to receive a Certificate of Recognition, and the nine main honorees were individually acknowledged with a short video.

OUSD and I are extremely proud of our Employees of the Year and congratulate them on their selection. We truly appreciate the commitment and professionalism they show in their respective roles as District employees and representatives. Their daily contributions reflect OUSD's commitment to providing each student with a high-quality education and the resources and support needed to be successful leaders of tomorrow. Congratulations to all our 2022-23 Employees of the Year! Thank you for your dedication to serving our students.

On May 24, we will be celebrating our retirees in the board rooms at the District Office. While we will miss our retiring friends and colleagues, we wish them all the best as they transition to a new chapter in their lives.

Finally, we will look forward to celebrating our Class of 2023 on June 7 and 8. Until then, keep your eyes open when you're driving around town! This year, we have once again worked with our local cities to highlight some of our graduating seniors on banners placed along major streets in Orange and Anaheim Hills. We sincerely hope these banners not only encourage our community to celebrate the Class of 2023 but also inspire our youngest scholars to strive for personal and academic success.

Orange Unified School District
1401 North Handy Street • Orange, CA 92867
(714) 628-4000 • www.orangeusd.org

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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Graduation & Promotion Schedule

Special Education School

School	Date	Time	Location
Canyon Hills	June 6	10:00 am	Gymnasium
Adult Transition Home School	June 2	9:30 am	Parkside Education Center Quad Area

Middle School Promotions

School	Date	Time	Location
McPherson Magnet	June 8	8:30 am	McPherson School Blacktop
Portola	June 8	8:00 am	Portola School Field
Yorba	June 8	9:00 am	Yorba School Field
Cerro Villa	June 8	9:00 am	Cerro Villa Outdoor Amphitheater
Santiago Charter	June 9	9:00 am	Santiago Outdoor Amphitheater
El Rancho Charter	June 7	6:00 pm	El Rancho Outdoor Amphitheater

High School Graduations

School	Date	Time	Location
Canyon	June 8	4:00 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
El Modena	June 8	1:00 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
Orange	June 7	7:00 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
Villa Park	June 8	7:00 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
Richland	June 7	4:00 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
Parkside	June 7		



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School News

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Covering the
ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:

Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura

COPY EDITORS: Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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Ernie Gonzalez, Acting Superintendent, begins this issue on page 2 highlighting the 2023 honorees. The end of a school year is bittersweet as students move to the next grade level, go on to higher learning or into the workforce and say goodbye to teachers and friends.

Our next issue is September 6.



**Congratulations
Class of 2023!**



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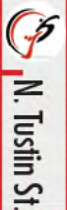
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E. Chapman Ave.



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Villa Park Library

17865 Santiago Blvd, Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714-998-0861 • www.ocpl.org



Kristina Jones
Librarian II

Summer Reading Program June 12- July 31



Join our reading program! We have a program for everyone. Read at your own pace. Keep track of the days you read and enter opportunity drawings.

Also, join us for Children's and Family events.

Special Programs:

Mon, June 19 at 2:30pm	Kids Knitting Program
Mon, June 26 at 10:30am	Dino Library Magic Show
Wed, July 19 at 2:30pm	Family Bingo Event
Mon, July 24 at 2:30pm	Kids Knitting Program
Wed, Aug 16 at 2:30pm	Family Bingo Event

Weekly Programs:

Tuesdays at 10:30am	Read and Play Babies and Toddler Program
Thursdays at 2:30pm	All Ages Coloring Time
Saturdays at 10am	Family Storytime
Saturdays at 2pm	Reading Buddies*

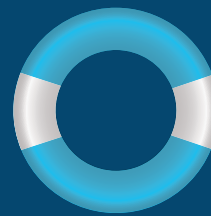
* Reading Buddies: children in grades K-4 read with our teen volunteers

Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am – 7pm, Sat 9am – 5pm

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Summer Programs 2023

June 2-August 4

SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS

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play matches, make great memories*

Monday-Thursday

10a.m.-12:30p.m.

(per week) \$275

Ages
7-16



ATC JUNIOR CLINICS

Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced

Saturday a.m. classes

(5 weeks) \$105

Tuesday & Thursday p.m. classes

2x per week (3 weeks) \$120

Ages
6-15

SUMMER TEAM TENNIS

Intermediate/ Advance Players

Classes on Friday 4-5:30p.m.

Saturday Match Play

June 2-July 21

(8 week session) \$340

Ages
8-16



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Check website for class times / anaheimtenniscenter.com

OUSD Alternative Education

Parkside Education Center: 250 S. Yorba St., Orange, CA 92869 • www.orangeusd.org/parkside



Julie Lucas
Principal

Field Trips

Parkside Programs continue to provide and host Field Trips for students to foster home/school connection. Mr. Segal and Mrs. Kissee hosted their classes to go to Long Beach

Aquarium of the Pacific for their Home School student's grades K to 8. Parent chaperones and students are shown engaged in hands-on learning. This year each program is taking at least one-off campus field trip to provide students in Home School and EDGE Virtual opportunities to learn in social situations.



**VANGUARD
UNIVERSITY**

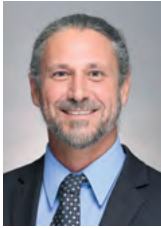
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Anaheim Hills *Elementary School*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169 • www.orangeusd.org/anaheim-hills-elementary-school



Kory Cosca
Principal

Outdoor Science School

The 6th graders for Anaheim Hills elementary school spent the week at 3 Oaks Outdoor Science School near Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains. The goal of sending our students to camp is to help create a lifelong understanding of environmental advocacy through

experiential learning and exploration in a safe and fun environment. The program provides social skill development by breaking social barriers through teamwork and inclusivity. Students had the opportunity to nurture their confidence and independence while developing a sense of responsibility and accountability. Our students were missed, but we know they had a wonderful time learning through nature!



California *Elementary School*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • www.orangeusd.org/california-elementary-school-k-5



Dr. Misty Brunasso
Principal

International Week

California iInspire Academy celebrated International Week! As a Dual Immersion School, we are committed to

not only building language but also experiencing different cultures. Throughout this week we celebrated the different cultures and diversity at our school. One event allowed students to discuss their family heritage and then locate it on the appropriate continent. Our community represents different backgrounds, cultures, ethnicity, and language and it was fun to celebrate these together!



Cambridge Elementary School

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • www.orangeusd.org/cambridge-elementary-school



Dana Encheff
Principal

Inclusive Learning

Cambridge Elementary is proud to enroll a diverse range of learners, including many students with special needs. Those needs vary from student to student and class to class, but regardless of the needs, our campus strives to find ways to provide inclusive learning environments across all areas of curriculum and activities. Some newly added support systems that are in place include: universally accessible

incentives and recognition programs, a calming, sensory room (designed by our site Behavior Support Aide), inclusion aides and instructional aides who work alongside students as they mainstream into general education classrooms, and before and after school programs that are open to all of our students. As we move into the 2023-2024 school year, we will be meeting with our Educational Partners to determine more strategies and supports we can use to improve our inclusion practices. Cambridge is committed to providing high quality inclusive learning for all learners on our campus!



Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171 • www.orangeusd.org/canyon-hills



Dr. John Erratt
Coordinator

Open House

As we approach the end of the school year, we take time to reflect on our students' many successes during the year and the dedication of our teaching staff. The teachers, service providers, and staff collaborate to create engaging, fun, and interesting lessons and activities both in class, on campus, and in the local community. Our students have enjoyed trips off campus to Canyon High School for snacks and to interact with other students there.

We continued many of the traditional Canyon Hills activities this Spring. We especially enjoyed welcoming families to campus for Open House to celebrate the successes of their children and to share the great things our teachers and staff are doing in their classes. We

greatly appreciate the support we received from the community for our Open House. Plans are well underway for the graduation celebration for our students who are moving on to the next phase of their lives. We will miss them on campus and wish the very best for them and their families.

Innovations in technology have become a standard at Canyon Hills. Our classrooms have new, updated tablets and students access many activities including virtual field trips on our large-screen interactive televisions. A new, large screen monitor in the gym lets our classes come together for a variety of learning experiences.

While the school year is coming to an end, student learning will continue with Extended School Year instruction and activities at Canyon Hills. Thank you to all the faculty, staff, parents and community members who are making this year a success.

Canyon High School

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • www.canyonhighschool.org



Brent Mckee
Acting Principal

Robotics Team

In just their second year as a program, the Canyon High School Robotics teams are already being recognized as one of the best programs in the area if not the state. For the second straight year, they sent three teams to the State Finals. Team A, led by Coach Peter Showler, finished in second place and qualified for the World Championships in Dallas, TX at the end of April. Although they didn't qualify for the World Championships, Teams B and C also made a strong showing at the State Tournament. Team B qualified for the 16-team playoff while team C made it to the semi-finals. Team members have spent a minimum of 15-20 hours a week over the last 9 months designing their winning robots to compete in the highly competitive Southern California region. The students' dedication, creativity, knowledge, and teamwork have helped form the foundation for their success.



Canyon Rim Elementary School

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027 • www.orangeusd.org/canyon-rim-elementary-school



Bree Tippetts
Principal

25th Anniversary

Canyon Rim students, staff and families celebrated our 25th Anniversary! We were excited to celebrate this milestone with our community and to open our doors to showcase the amazing work that our school has accomplished over the years. Families

had an opportunity to see firsthand the remarkable achievements of our students and to learn about what makes Canyon Rim special. Canyon Rim has a long-standing tradition of excellence in education, and we are proud to have served the families of this community for 25 years. Thank you to our students, staff, families and community for being a part of our school's success story!

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • www.cerrovilla.org



Madeline Morrison
Principal

Library New Patio Space

CVMS's library has an incredible 'shelf life' with varied offerings and an inviting atmosphere. Our library is a vibrant community space where students can engage in fun and educational activities in addition to borrowing books and devices. Makerspace Mondays provide an opportunity to engage in hands-on, STEM-related projects, Game Play

Tuesdays allow students to enjoy friendly competition through various interactive games, including BINGO, and on Watch-Something Wednesdays, students come together to enjoy a variety of popular and classic television episodes. CV has an active book club that meets each Thursday and encourages and fosters a love of reading, with students discussing and sharing their favorite books and authors. The library has recently added a beautiful new patio space with funds generously donated by the Orange Blossoms and Orange Assistance League. This outdoor area provides a comfortable space for students to read, study, or simply relax amidst nature. Stop on by!



Chapman Hills *Elementary School*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • www.orangeusd.org/chapman-hills-elementary-school



Lana Merha
Principal

Chapman Hills Raises Over \$35,000 from Their Jog-a-Thon

On April 14, after a long, wet winter, Chapman Hills students participated in their Jog-a-Thon to raise money for recess equipment and to support their recently

dedicated STEM Lab. This was the first Jog-a-Thon Chapman Hills has had in 4 years. The community raised over \$35,000 due to the overwhelming number of sponsors and family support. The sixth graders kicked off the event by running the first lap in honor of their last year at Chapman Hills. It was a fantastic event with great music to keep the kids moving. We are so fortunate to have so many supportive families who came out to cheer on the students.



Crescent Elementary School

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • www.orangeusd.org/crescent-elementary-school

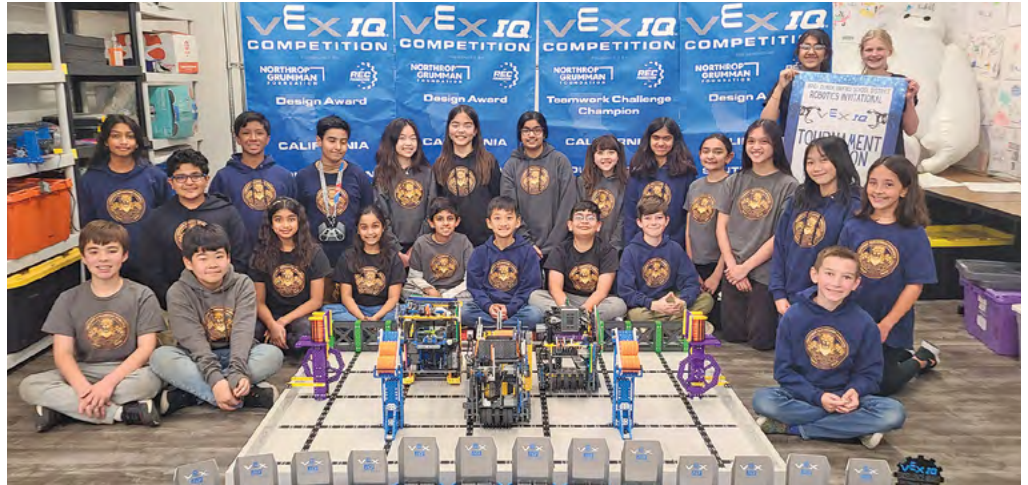


Antoinette Coe
Principal

Crescent Robotics Teams are on Their Way to Dallas!

The Vex Robotics teams have had an amazing year! Our teams qualified to compete on the world stage against 760 teams from 50 countries, all who will be striving to be crowned world champions. The three teams from Crescent won 20 awards at 11 different tournaments around Southern California this year. All three teams qualified for the world competition by winning the design award. Team 15b qualified to compete for the teamwork challenge award, and Team 15a earned 1st place from an online challenge competing against many different countries. The teams will be traveling to Dallas, Texas from May 1st through May 5th. Good luck teams! We are so very proud of you!

(15a) Team Luna Bots- Pia Odhrani (Team Captain), Shaunak Ganguly, Avani Naik, Eleanor Markley, Susan Braun, Rasa Nazarinia, Sareena Uppal, Dhruv Bhide
(15b) Team Cougar Bots- James Malilim (Team Captain,) Caleb Henninger, Garrett Lish, Maya Williams, Aaron Wu, Leana Doung, Sana Patel, Sana Rao
(15c) Team Robo-Cougars- Nayra Sharma (Team Captain), Avery Perry, David Froissard, Theodore Kim, Dhevan Sampat, Zeal Parekh, Isabella Averion, Allison Kan



El Modena High School

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • www.elmodenahs.org



Sandra Preciado
Principal

Jeanne Carter Nature Center

The Jeanne Carter Nature Center is officially here! El Modena faculty, students, and alumni in conjunction with our extended community celebrated the dedication of our onsite nature center to Jeanne Carter. A ceremony was held on Friday, April 21st, in advance of Earth Day, to honor Jeanne Carter and her 50+ years of service to the garden and El Modena community. The dedication ceremony included reflections on the importance of Jeanne's work in preserving and enhancing this natural space and the significance it has held for current and past students and community members. The ceremony ended with a Native American land acknowledgement performed by Jacque Nunez, an EMHS alumna. This one-acre plot of land includes a 200 ft stream, wandering paths and wooden

bridges. There is space for performances, instruction, and hands-on learning activities. As shared by Aly Halbreich in her dedication speech, "We are grateful for the care and effort that has gone into creating and maintaining this hidden treasure, and we look forward to many more years of learning and discovery." Thank you, Jeanne.



El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • elranchocharter.org



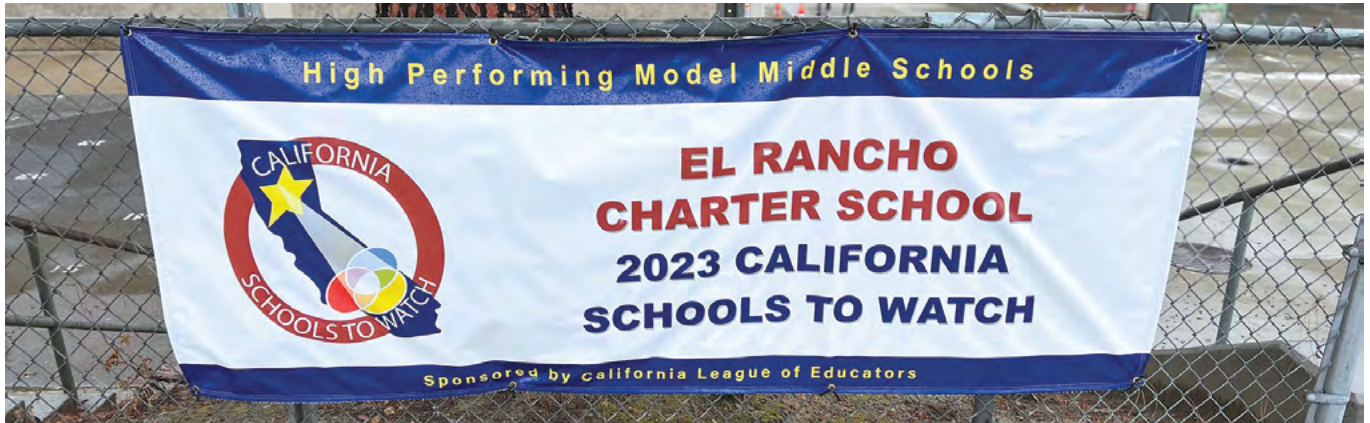
Michele Walker
Principal

A California School to Watch

The application process to become a California League of Educators, *Schools to Watch*, was truly a collaborative effort. An in-depth conversation was held with ILT (Instructional Leadership Team) about the opportunity this would give to our school to share the strategies, and robust course offerings with those outside of our community. El Rancho Charter School teachers, department

chairs, school psychologists, and administrators worked together to analyze data, write, and edit all portions of the application. The team unanimously agreed to move forward with the process and a timeline was developed to meet the submission deadline.

On Friday, January 13, 2023, the STW team came to El Rancho for an in-depth site visit. The visit culminated with a staff interview with representatives from El Rancho, our Board of Education, Orange Unified School District and Santiago Charter School. Well done El Rancho!



Esplanade *Elementary School*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157 • www.orangeusd.org/esplanade



Cheryl Sosa
Principal

Esplanade Eagles LOVE the Book Fair!

You always know when the Book Fair is at Esplanade Elementary School. Mrs. Cipres, our librarian, works exceptionally hard to transform our library into a mini bookstore. She always makes sure that our students have the opportunity to choose from the best selection of books and other fun items. All of the Book Fair books and toys are fun and engaging, and accessible to students at all levels. This year we aligned our Book Fair with lunch with a loved one. We had an exceptional number of families at school to engage in a meal together and browse the Book Fair. A percentage of the proceeds from our Book Fair come right back to our school and give us the opportunity to continue to support our students.



Fairhaven *Elementary School*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178 • www.orangeusd.org/fairhaven-elementary-school



Christina Hiraes
Principal

Dance Classes

Fairhaven is proud to have partnered with the Orange County School of the Arts to provide traditional Mexican Folklorico Dance Classes to our students. This type of dance reflects the traditions, cultures, and beliefs of people in a particular region. Folklorico dance expresses the life and spirit of a people through its movement and music. It is both historical and current, preserving tradition yet shifting with the current

times. The purpose of folkloric dances in Mexico have traditionally been a way of honoring the Mexican culture and a representation of the struggles and joys of the daily life. Our students and parents were overjoyed with the results when they had the pleasure of performing in front of our school community, district officials, distinguished guests and Mr. Randy Barth himself, the CEO of Think Together. Students were able to not only dance but educate the audience on the historical significance of dances performed. We are incredibly proud of our students and the dedication they have made to learn something new.



Fletcher *Mandarin Language & GATE Academy*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181 • www.orangeusd.org/fletcher-elementary-school



Sara Pelly
Principal

Fletcher Students Visit Taiwan

Over Spring Break, eight Fletcher Mandarin Dual Immersion families spent seven days touring the entire country of Taiwan. Students had daily reflection homework assignments, and daily Mandarin and local history lessons on the bus as they drove from city to city, stopping in each town for meals. Students also learned how to make tofu and visited a ranch providing Taiwan with milk.

Joining a local public school for an immersion experience with an opening assembly and PE class with Chinese yo-yo, each student then participated in a class with a hands-on activity and lesson related to the culture of Taiwan before a closing assembly, with students sharing reflections and enjoying lunch with food from their local area. This immersive journey into the language and culture of Taiwan allowed students to get a deeper understanding and appreciation for what they have learned as dual immersion students.



Handy *Elementary School*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • www.orangeusd.org/handy-elementary-school



Erika Krohn
Principal

Handy Green Team Visits Orange High!

Handy Green Team along with their coordinators, Mrs. Hayley Cody and Mrs. Veronica Vella, visited Orange High on April 5, 2023, to learn about their agriculture program, Future Farmers of America. The high school students led the activities and discussed how impactful the Future Farmers program has been to their leadership

development and future career skills. Handy Green Team learned about fish and aquaponics, sustainable agriculture, vertical gardens, vermiculture, wild bird management, landscaping, gardening, petting zoo, market beef, lamb and pigs, small animals, and specialty animals. Handy Green Team left this field trip filled with ideas on how to improve upon the Handy Garden, composting, and environmental efforts. Our hornets are very excited to be future panthers!



Imperial *Elementary School*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • www.orangeusd.org/imperial-elementary-school



Kristi McDougall
Principal

Successful Open House

Imperial Elementary had our Open House on Tuesday, May 25th. Students and teachers were so excited to show off their classrooms and all the hard work they have accomplished this year. In TK, Mrs. Rodriguez had a milking cow and hot air balloons displayed their writing. Kindergarten students led parents on a tour through their study of oceanography and had to rescue sea life from an iceberg. First grade students had grown grass and shared a very creatively designed animal research project. Second graders used their iPads to take a photo tour of the classroom. In third grade students shared an autobiography they had written and a pictorial of their place in the world. Fourth grade students shared what they learned in writing and had a beautiful display of watercolor biographies. Fifth grade students shared a terrarium ecosystems and freshwater collection systems. Finally, 6th grade students showed off their Egyptian Death Masks that they had made in Social Studies. There were plenty of smiles and praises all around. It was a great success!



Jordan Academy of Language and Computer Science

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187 • www.orangeusd.org/jordan-academy

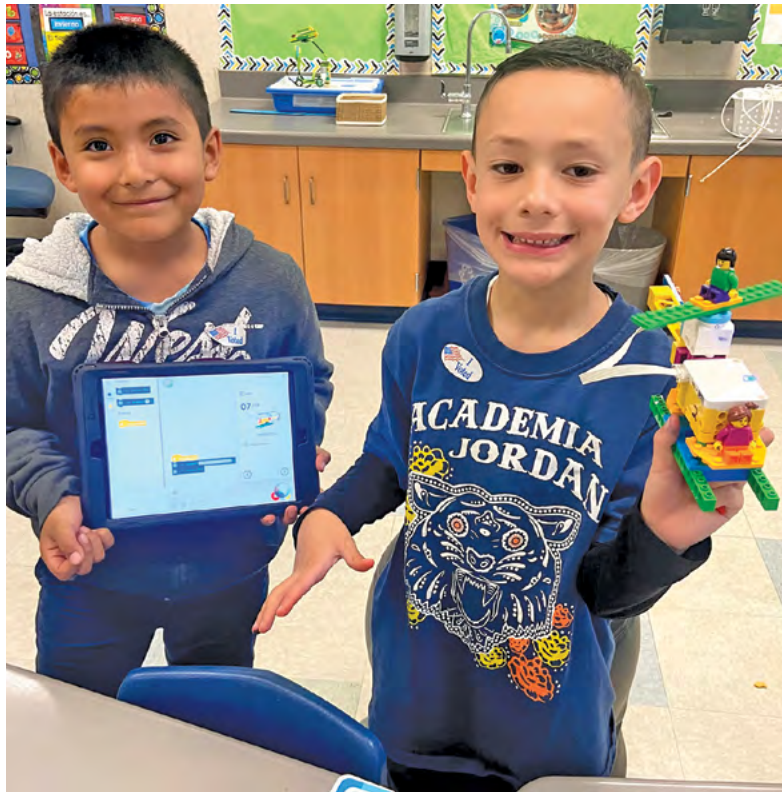


Jon Ruffridge
Principal

Involving Everything Through Extended Learning

Through the support of the new Extended Learning Opportunities, Jordan Academy of Language and Computer Science has built an extensive list of After School Clubs and Learning Activities with the goal of ensuring all students can pursue new avenues of learning.

Already this school year, Jordan Academy students have had opportunities to be involved in Running Club, Primary Robotics, Upper Grade Robotics, Primary Code Club, Upper Grade Code Club, Crochet Club, Cross Stitch Club, Ballet Folklorico, Mariachi, Basketball, Soccer, Art Club, Digital Art, Digital Photography, STEM Club, Cooking Club, and plenty more in the pipeline! We are excited at how these Extended Learning opportunities have truly built more community with our students and opportunities for them to explore new areas of creativity and academics. We are looking forward to further and deeper connections in Extended Learning for the coming year as well!



La Veta Elementary School

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155 • www.orangeusd.org/la-veta-elementary-school



Lorena Rubio
Principal

We Appreciate Our Awesome La Veta PTA!

Thanks to our La Veta PTA executive board and members, we had an amazing year with so many fun events! Our community is so fortunate to have a wonderful PTA and many volunteers that support our school by providing so much that makes La Veta the best!

One of these fun family events was our first Trunk or Treat Event, with so many decorated cars! Our PTA also held the In & Out Cook Out Night event with a magician show and crafts! Students got to showcase their artistic talent through the PTA reflections program. Our Splash and Dash fundraiser was a success! The Spring Carnival event would not have been awesome without our community's support.

These special events and our students' and community's participation are what make La Veta a wonderful place to SAIL into Success! Thank you for an awesome year to our PTA Executive Board: Mrs. Zuniga, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Guerrero, and Mrs. Poylio!



Lampson *Elementary School*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • www.orangeusd.org/lampson-elementary-school-k-5



Alejandra Pantoja
Principal

iReady Math Challenge

It is always exciting to have fun as we learn, and this past month proved it. Lampson Leopards participated in our very first, school wide iReady Math Challenge.

The goal was to for students to get excited to see their progress when there was a challenge tied

to their success. The challenge created a school wide focus, across all grade levels, and made our families aware of our focus on iReady Math. We began monitoring lessons passed with 100% accuracy on March 20th. 1st class to reach 100 lessons passed with 100% accuracy decided the Principal's challenge. It was a close call but the students in Ms. Orr's 2nd grade class were the first

class in the entire school to reach 100 iReady math lessons with 100% accuracy!! In addition, first classes to reach 100 lessons passed with 100% accuracy in K-1, 2-3 and 3-5 won a pizza party. It took 6 days for our Leopards to reach their goal and enjoy a well-earned pizza party.



Linda Vista *Elementary School*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • www.lindavistaelementary.com



Renee Ybarra
Principal

Linda Vista Loves Math!

Here at Linda Vista, we are busy focusing on Math learning! Each week, we celebrate Math Monday, with all teachers and staff wearing their "Math Squad" shirts. During lunch on Math Mondays, students can join Mrs. Ybarra in the Learning

Center for math games and activities such as Blokus, Set Game, the Allowance Game, and more. Additionally, students in 3rd through 6th grades have an opportunity to work on a Problem of the Week, which is an SBAC released question. Students are encouraged to work out the problem and explain their reasoning. One correct answer for each grade level is announced at our Monday announcements & that student receives a "Smart Smencil" as a reward for their hard work. This year we also celebrated math learning with Family Math Night that was fun for the whole family!



McPherson Magnet *School*

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • mcpersonhome.meteormail.net



Brenna Godsey
Principal

STEAM Night Event

McPherson celebrated its 25th anniversary with a fantastic STEAM Night event! Students, families, alumni, OUSD staff, and community members came together to celebrate this momentous occasion on March 23, 2023. Sponsored by the McPherson Education Foundation, the event featured many engaging activities hosted

by McPherson teachers and staff. The traditional egg drop event was a great success with seven students successfully protecting their egg with the designated supplies to survive the fall from the roof. Other activities included a magic show, fish dissection, reptile and bug room, robotics, 3-D printing, origami, eSports, and more. Families enjoyed savory food and sweet treats from food trucks. Everyone had a great time exploring and learning with each other throughout the night to celebrate 25 years of meteor magic.

Nohl Canyon *High School*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • www.orangeusd.org/nohl-canyon-elementary-school



Jeffrey Jones
Principal

Nohl Canyon Students Shine on Stage

Twice a year, approximately 100 Nohl Canyon students participate in our Musical Theatre performance. Led by Center Stage and supported by Nohl Canyon School Association (NCSA; Nohl Canyon Parent Organization), students in grades 1st through 6th audition

for specific parts, rehearse for 8 weeks and perform in front of family, friends, and staff. The spring Musical, Beauty and the Beast



Jr., held performances on April 27th and April 28th at El Rancho Charter School. Ninety-eight students participated in the spring musical! Students rehearsed every Thursday after school for approximately 2 hours leading up to Showtime performances. Each year, the musicals provide an opportunity for our students to showcase their many talents of singing, dancing, stage presence, and dedication to each other. The Arts are alive and well at Nohl Canyon!

Olive *Elementary School*

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • www.orangeusd.org/olive-elementary-school



Heather Darrow
Principal

AVID Showcase School

As an AVID Showcase School, Olive sets a strong focus on nurturing college and career readiness in our students. Through AVID, teachers use WICOR as an instructional tool to ensure students have extensive experience with Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading across all content areas. This year, Olive students have focused on taking notes, applying their notes to writing, goal setting, and increased collaboration opportunities. Through these

experiences, students are learning how to ask questions as they learn, as well as effectively communicate their ideas and reasoning through collaboration. This spring, we were pleased to welcome educators from throughout Southern California to visit Olive as an opportunity to learn and grow from our school community. AVID Ambassadors lead educational teams to different classrooms, highlighting the key instructional strategies throughout the campus. Guests observed goal setting, notetaking, collaboration, inquiry, and organization using binders and digital portfolios in kindergarten through 6th grade. Way to go Ocelots!

Orange High School

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • www.orangehighschool.org



Sheryl Anderson-Glass
Principal

Time Capsule

While beginning the demolition of the 100/200 building at Orange High School, a time capsule was discovered in the corner stone from the original

Orange Union High School. A Time Capsule reveal ceremony was held to uncover the contents from the original start in 1903 and contents from the move to our current location on Schaffer Street in 1953. Several copies of local newspapers, copies of The Reflector school newspaper, and an original School Manual from the 1903-1904 school year were some of the contents in the time capsule. What we do know is that even though times may have changed, there are still similarities to high school students in 1903 versus today. From this revela, we



mark a new beginning but continue the pride and traditions of the community and school. For the last one hundred and nineteen years, Orange High School has provided high-quality education and a culture of enthusiasm for teaching and learning. Panther students and alumni are proud of the heritage and legacies left behind. Teachers have established a proven tradition of success preparing young adults for futures

that will be brighter, hopefully more peaceful, and more prosperous than before. Our current student body will make recommendations on items to add to this current time capsule so we can keep the traditions alive for school communities to come.

Palmyra GATE Magnet

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • www.orangeusd.org/palmyra-elementary-school



Christina Bletterman
Principal

New Era for Our School

As Palmyra looks toward its future, our desire is to reach more students with the innovative instruction, positive learning environment and advanced learning

opportunities that we provide. At the 70th Anniversary, we announced our new name:

Palmyra

GATE Magnet - Empowering All Students to Persevere, Excel and Innovate This name highlights our GATE Magnet Program that has been around for over 20 years while recognizing that ALL students' learning is important no matter the level or implementation of instruction. Empowering all learners to Preserve, Excel and Innovate is what Palmyra does with excellence for every

student; every day. State and City Officials, Trustee Erickson, Trustee Yamasaki, Acting Superintendent Ernest Gonzalez, District Officials and Palmyra Families and students were all present when we performed a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark this new era for our school.



Panorama Elementary School

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265 • www.orangeusd.org/panorama-elementary-school



Erin Rosselli
Principal

Congratulations Friday Night Live

Panorama's Friday Night Live leadership group was recognized by the Orange County Department of Education as their 2022-2023 Chapter Excellence Award Recipient.

The Orange County Friday Night Live Partnership provides

opportunities for positive and healthy [youth development](#) by engaging youth as active leaders and resources in their communities. Mrs. Kristin Cowan leads and facilitates our program. She started with a few students and now has grown to approximately 40 upper grade students who focus on improving our school and local community. Our leadership group led our Red Ribbon Week activities,

as well as supported our Kids Heart Challenge and Earth Day. They also support local organizations through various drives and strive to build kindness and school spirit on our campus. We are very proud of the work they continue to do and their recognition as a chapter of excellence.



Portola Preparatory Academy

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • www.orangeusd.org/portola-middle-school-6-7-8



Jeff Morgan
Principal

Celebrating our Students

As the year comes to an end, we begin the season of celebrating our students. We have all our 8th grade activities, field trips for music, AVID and Spanish. Recently we were fortunate enough to take 18 students to an Angel's game

sponsored by our GRIP program. Our students were nominated by our teachers and identified for all the great work that they have been doing this year, or that they have really turned it around and are doing everything they need to meet our school-wide Learner outcomes: PREP. Before the game started, we had the opportunity to receive some words of wisdom from some Angel's players and watch some batting practice. One of our students even caught a ball. Another highlight was watching our

band perform the national anthem. They sounded amazing. It was a great event as always and wonderful to see so many students from Portola attend.



Prospect Elementary School

239 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • www.orangeusd.org/prospect-elementary-school



Mary Hinton
Principal

Prospect is the Future!

Prospect students participated in a Robotics Showcase, Drone League Competition, and are looking forward to an upcoming eSports Competition! Our Robotics team is coached by Mrs. Aimee Scott and consists of students in 4th through 6th grade. Our student engineers were excited, passionate, and

prepared to demonstrate their leadership skills as well as their problem-solving skills and techniques. Mrs. Matson's group of 4th-6th grade Drone League Team represented Prospect at the First Annual Woven Drone League held at Olive Elementary. Competition was fierce, but Prospect showed their skills by earning some of the fastest course times! Finally, Mrs. Rojas and Mr. Escobar coach our eSports competitors every week, increasing students' skills. Excitement is building for the eSports competition which will be held in mid-May. There is no doubt Prospect players will be STRONG competitors. Thank you to these students and staff for making Prospect the place to be.



Richland High School

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • www.orangeusd.org/richland-continuation-high-school



Lisa Ogan
Principal

Celebrating Our Graduates

Richland's unique environment allows students and staff to commemorate and celebrate the achievements of seniors every quarter. By having Richland on a quarter system, seniors capitalize on the opportunity

to earn much needed credits, and also for some, to graduate early. Second quarter this year saw twenty-seven seniors graduate. The third quarter saw even more Richland Condors with twenty-eight seniors graduate! All Condors continue to emphasize and impart the core values at Richland: being skilled, organized, accountable, and respectful.

As we near the end of the 2022-23 school year, Richland is once again preparing for festivities. Alongside our quarterly assemblies, seniors are looking forward to many culminating events such as our "Enchanted Forest" themed prom on May 12, career week presentations, and a final

commencement ceremony held at Fred Kelly stadium on June 7. Richland's mission is continuously fulfilled every time a student graduates. Much joy and celebration is imparted from our Richland staff as they witness the hard work and perseverance from our students coming to fruition in attaining this great accomplishment. Way to go Condors!



Running Springs Academy

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • www.orangeusd.org/running-springs-elementary-school



Christina Yokoyama
Principal

Flags Around the World

As an International Baccalaureate World School, Running Springs Academy has a focus on global mindedness. To align with this IB philosophy, the Running Springs staff and families came together this past April to continue the long-standing tradition of hosting the annual Flags Around the

characters and much more. As students visited each display, they learned a bit about the culture and heritage of the represented countries and completed their “passports.” It was a fun evening for all that attended, and the Running Springs school community looks forward to continuing this annual tradition for years to come.

World event. In a celebration of cultural diversity, there were student performances featuring music and dances from Iran, China, Thailand, and Persia. Families brought artifacts, games, and food, lots of food, from over 20 different cultures. There was a fun photobooth with backgrounds from the Philippines, South Korean games, traditional clothing from Taiwan, painting Chinese



Santiago Charter Middle School

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • www.santiagocharterms.org



Dr. James D'Agostino
Co-Principal



Ashley Pedroza
Co-Principal

New Courses

Santiago Charter School is excited to launch new courses for the 2023-2024 school year. We poll our students and families about new programs and gain perspective on courses our students might be interested in exploring. We then collaborate with teachers

and staff to ensure we are prepared and excited to launch new courses. For the 2023-2024 school year, we will be launching the following:

- CollegeBoard Pre-AP (Advanced Placement) Courses: After years of planning and in partnership with CollegeBoard, Santiago Charter is honored to be one of the first middle schools in Southern California to offer CollegeBoard approved Pre-AP courses. These courses will offer an academic rigor comparable to high school courses and are intended to further prepare students for success and acceleration in the high school AP (college course) program. For next school year, we will offer Pre-AP Biology, Pre-AP English 1 and Pre-AP World History and Geography.

- CTE (Career Technical Education) Electives: Students are encouraged to complete CTE Pathways in high school in order to better differentiate themselves in college applications and the workplace! As a middle school, we can provide students with preliminary courses in some of these pathways to accelerate their completion in high school. In addition to the pathway courses in Film and Video Production, Graphic Design, Woodshop and Culinary Arts, we are excited to launch courses in Business Entrepreneurship, Digital Photography and Digital Audio Production. These courses directly align with pathways offered at OUSD high schools and give our Santiago/OUSD students an advantage among peers.
- Expansion of our Santiago Music Program: Our award-winning music program is expanding to include the following new classes/programs. In 2023-2024 we will be offering a wheel music elective that includes Ukulele, Piano Lab and Drum Line, and year-long courses that include Intermediate Band and Jazz Band.

It is our privilege as educators to consistently pivot to the needs and desires of our evolving student population and we are proud to offer new and different courses and programs on a regular basis for our Santiago students and families!

Serrano *Elementary School*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • www.orangeusd.org/serrano-elementary-school



Laura Kresi
Principal

Lion King Jr. Performances

Our Serrano Eagles were amazing at their Lion King Jr. performances! We had the biggest turnout we have ever had, with a cast of almost 90 students! With so many talented Eagles, we did four productions with two separate casts. Our leads were poised, and the grassland animals were an awesome support in all songs!

It sure takes a village for events like this. Our PFO did a fantastic job of supporting our students with all of their rehearsals and then with the final productions. Our parent volunteers supported students backstage, getting their costumes and makeup done, and selling tickets and concessions. We even had the support of Cerro Villa as they were kind enough to let us use their auditorium.

We are so fortunate that our Eagles have enrichment opportunities like this to shine outside of school! Hakuna Matata!



Sycamore *Elementary School*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • www.orangeusd.org/sycamore-elementary-school



Laura Urquhart
Principal

Sycamore Sea Lions Run in Full Color

On April 14th, our entire student body participated in Sycamore Elementary's annual Color

Run. The schoolwide event is organized and run by Sycamore's amazing PTA. Each student can raise money for the school and then participate in the schoolwide Color Run event where they run with their grade level while community and family volunteers douse the students with colorful powder. The event also included a DJ, dancing, and yummy popsicles after the run. HUGE thanks to our PTA!!!



Taft Elementary School

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • www.orangeusd.org/taft-elementary-school



Amy Alvarado
Principal

A Busy End of Year

Taft students and staff are busy as the end of the year rapidly approaches. Our 6th graders spent a few days at Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center learning all sorts of amazing things and testing their skills with rock climbing, zip lining, hiking and other outdoor

activities. Most of our grade levels have participated in an off-campus field trip and those who have not yet, will do so before the end of the year. These opportunities are often favorite memories for staff and students. We have been fundraising to support these fun, educational activities in the future. Our McTeacher Night was a huge success as have been our Friday Snack Sales by our AVID Leadership Team. We welcomed families onto campus for Literacy Lunch with a Loved One as well as Open House

and enjoyed that time together. We are looking forward to finishing the year strong. We will be hosting a Summer Enrichment Program as well as a Summer Camp! Thank you to our students, staff and families for all the support!



Villa Park Elementary School

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • www.orangeusd.org/villa-park-elementary



Martha Arceo
Principal

Bike Rodeo 2023

Third graders at VPE had the opportunity to participate in our "Bike Rodeo". Orange County Sherriff's came onto our campus to teach our 3rd graders about bicycle safety.

On Day 1, they taught them the importance of wearing a helmet, wearing bright clothing, checking for working brakes, and using their hand signals. On Day 2, students brought their bicycles and helmets to school. With the help of parent volunteers, officers set up stations where students rotated through and had to demonstrate skills like, riding their bike with traffic, stopping at all signals and traffic lights, using their hand signals, and maneuvering through an obstacle course.



Villa Park High School

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • www.villaparkhigh.org



Dennis McCuiston
Principal

Celebrating Two More CIF-SS Academic Championships

Villa Park High School celebrated two athletic teams earning CIF-SS Academic Championship status in 2022-2023. Baseball and Softball earned these titles based upon each team earning the highest-grade point averages (G.P.A.) in the enrollment category of 1,500 or more students.

These two teams will be honored at the CIF-SS Academic Championship Awards ceremony on Monday, April 24, 2023, at Angel Stadium of Anaheim. The team will be awarded a championship banner during the ceremony prior to the Angels game. Additionally, team members for each squad will walk the playing field to represent Villa Park High School in receiving the banner during the pre-game ceremony. Each team will be led by their Head Coaches, Baseball Head Coach Mr. Burt Call and Softball Head Coach Mr. Terry Williams.

We should also note that baseball was the CIF Academic Championship Runner-Up last school year. In addition, it is truly an incredible feat that four teams, Football, Boys Volleyball, Girls Tennis and Boys Tennis all finished in the Top 3 this school year. When tabulating the grade point averages for all sports, Villa Park High School had 21 out of 26 Varsity Sports qualify for Top 25 grade point average status in the CIF Southern Section, 11 teams earned Top 5 status, 16 teams earned Top 10 status and one team, Boys Track and Field, was the CIF Southern Section Academic Champion Runner Up, the third Villa Park High School team all time to earn this prestigious status.

This is the ninth Villa Park High School athletic team to win a CIF Southern Section Academic Championship in the last six academic school years.

We want to recognize and thank all our fine teachers, coaches, students, families, and community stakeholders in supporting these achievements.

#VPschoolofexcellence

West Orange Elementary School

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • www.orangeusd.org/west-orange-elementary-school-k-5



Dr. Monica Murray
Principal

Angels Adopt-A-School Program

The Angels Baseball Foundation adopted West Orange Elementary School for the 2022-2023 school year. We are being selected as part of the 15th class included in the Angels Adopt-A-School program! Each year, The

Angels organization works with the OC Department of Education and OC Waste & Recycling to select five schools in Orange County on a need-basis, with students representing the community in which the Angels play. As an adopted school for the 2022-23 school year, the Angels will support West Orange Elementary by providing the school with:

- \$2,000 Grant from the Angels Baseball Foundation and OC Waste & Recycling to support school programming
- (4) Angels game tickets for every student and staff member for a game during the 2023 season
- Angels gift for each student- RALLY MONKEYS!!!
- OC Waste & Recycling "Thank you for recycling right" token of appreciation "Adopt-A-School" Banner to hang at the school.



As part of the adoption, The Angels of Anaheim visited our school on April 26th for a fun-filled school-wide assembly where Zach Neto inspired our students. Our students and community members were thrilled to meet Neto and ask questions during the assembly. Afterward, selected students had the opportunity to have a 1:1 session with Neto, where they engaged in conversation about making goals, sports, and reaching their dreams. We are excited about the upcoming game and support of The Angels of Anaheim!

Yorba Academy of the Arts Middle School

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • www.orangeusd.org/yorba



Mark McLaughlin
Principal

VILS Lab

Yorba Middle School is proud to announce that we will be opening our Verizon Innovative Learning Lab (VILS) in the fall of 2023-24. This lab is a benefit of the Verizon Innovative Learning Grant that was awarded to Yorba Middle School; one of two schools in Orange County to have such a distinction. Through this grant, each student is issued an LTE enabled touchscreen Chromebook

that can be utilized both at school and home. Prior to the VILS Grant 47% of our students did not have access to the internet at home. Yorba Middle School recently received a two-year extension to the grant, and we anticipate a ribbon cutting ceremony sometime soon. The VILS lab will support high levels of technological integration across all subject matters. In addition, in conjunction with Arizona State University and Digital Promise, we will offer two elective periods where students will have access to technology to four curriculum tracks. Immersive Media (Virtual + Augmented Reality) curriculum allows students to create digital or virtual environments for sustainability. The Digital Product Innovations (3D Modeling + Printing) track provides students the opportunity to complete



missions that include producing a prototype and logo (two or three dimensional) and create connections to historically relevant places such as Ancient Greece. In the Smart Solutions (Electronics + Wearables) module, students will work with electrical circuits using sensors, lights, and motors. Finally, the Artificial Intelligence + Robotics (Coding) module will provide the students a chance to relate Artificial Intelligence and robotics to the open ocean and business.

Day at the Beach –Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put OUSD in the subject line.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| SUN BLOCK | SURF BOARD |
| TOWELS | FLOAT |
| SWIM SUIT | SHIRT |
| SUNGLASSES | SANDWICHES |
| UMBRELLA | SHORTS |
| HAT | CHAP STICK |
| FLIP FLOPS | FIRST AID KIT |
| PAIL | COOLER |
| SHOVEL | DRINKS |
| BLANKET | SNACKS |
| BOOK | |

Entries must be received by July 15, 2023

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



Congratulations to Amy Gormley
Winner of our April Word Search Contest!



History Depot



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History is about learning and understanding the past. The past does not change, but interpretations do. One cannot erase history and expect to remember the past.

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Orange County Department of Education

OCDE's Continuous Commitment to Strengthening School Safety



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Our children deserve to learn and grow in safe and secure environments, where they can thrive academically and emotionally. And parents should be confident that when they send their children to school, they will return home just as healthy and happy as when they left.

Yet in too many instances, we have seen this social contract ripped apart by the devastating reality of school violence, leading to the familiar cycle of shock, grief and anger.

I wish I could say I had answers sufficient to prevent this country's next mass shooting. I do not. I can only extend my most heartfelt condolences to anyone impacted by senseless violence, and I can reaffirm here the sustained commitment of the Orange County Department of Education and leaders throughout our region to proactively protect our students and staff.

To give you some background, California schools are required by law to update their Comprehensive Safe School Plans each year. These plans outline each campus's planned responses to various crises, and they are routinely reinforced through site-level drills, including evacuations and shelter-in-place exercises.

Of course the strategies for promoting safety will vary by campus and are ultimately up to each district's locally elected school board and leadership teams, in partnership with teachers, families, staff, students and communities. But our department eagerly supports this work with trainings and workshops throughout the year, covering such topics as safe school plans, behavioral threat assessments, earthquake preparedness, resilience strategies and active-shooter behavioral indicators.

Meanwhile, OCDE works closely with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and other local law enforcement agencies to study

everything from cyberbullying to how to best secure school facilities. One key partnership worth noting is with the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center, or OCIAC, which leverages the reach and resources of the Sheriff's Department, the FBI and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to detect, investigate and prevent criminal and terrorist activity.

OCDE and the Sheriff's Department also team up every summer to host the Safe Schools Conference with the California Department of Education. This three-day event brings together more than 500 educators and law enforcement personnel from throughout the state to discuss issues and trends related to campus violence, bullying, social media, human trafficking, gangs and substance abuse.

In the case of critical incidents impacting schools, OCDE's Crisis Response Network deploys psychologists, nurses, social workers and other personnel to support students and staff during and after emergencies. This team also conducts trainings for schools, youth service providers, parents and students.

Finally, OCDE champions positive school climates and anti-bullying through initiatives such as the Multi-Tiered System of Support framework, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, or PBIS, and our One Billion Acts of Kindness campaign, which kicked off in 2016 to promote character and amplify civility in our communities.

In Orange County, we view the pursuit of safer schools as a race with no finish line, and that means our commitment must be equally unwavering and enduring. New threats will continue to emerge, but so too will new technologies, strategies and best practices for protecting students and schools. Above all, we vow to stay vigilant and informed, work closely with our law enforcement partners, and adapt our approaches accordingly.

We owe our children and families nothing less.