School News

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Covering the Garden Grove Unified School District

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Dr. Gabriela Mafi
Superintendent

The Garden Grove Way Leads to Student Success

It has been a wonderful start to the school year! Now in my 14th year as Superintendent of Garden Grove Unified School District, I remain deeply grateful for the partnership of our students, staff, and families. Together, we remain focused on our three goals: equipping every student with the academic skills (Goal 1) and personal skills (Goal 2) needed for lifelong success (Goal 3).

GGUSD continues to earn recognition at the county, state, and national levels. For seven consecutive years, our students' SBAC scores have exceeded county and state averages in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. Our 2025-26 SBAC scores were 12 points above the state average in ELA and 14 points higher in Math. Nine of our 17 secondary schools were named 2026 California Distinguished Schools—the most of any district in Orange County and the third-highest number in California. Additionally, GGUSD high schools once again earned impressive rankings in U.S. News & World Report's list of America's Best High Schools.

Our award-winning Spanish and Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion programs continue to grow. Building on their success, we announced plans to expand our Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion program to Anthony Elementary School, providing more students with the opportunity to become bilingual, biliterate, and culturally proficient. The district is recognized as a model for dual language excellence, having been recognized earlier this year with the Trailblazer Visionary Board Award from the California Association of Bilingual Education (CABE) and the Lynne Aoki Multiple Pathways to Biliteracy Award from Californians Together.

A la Manera de Garden Grove onduce al éxito estudiantil

¡Ha sido un maravilloso comienzo del año escolar! Ahora que cumplo mi año número catorce como superintendente del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Garden Grove, sigo estando profundamente agradecida por la colaboración de nuestros alumnos, el personal y las familias. Juntos, nos mantenemos enfocados en nuestras tres metas: la (Meta 1) Habilidades académicas (Meta 2) Habilidades personales (Meta 3) Habilidades necesarias para alcanzar el éxito de por vida.

El GGUSD continúa obteniendo reconocimientos a nivel del condado, estatal y nacional. Durante siete años consecutivos, los puntajes de nuestros alumnos en las Evaluaciones del Consorcio Smarter Balanced (SBAC) han superado los promedios del condado y del estado tanto en las Artes de Lenguaje en Inglés como en Matemáticas. Nuestros puntajes de las SBAC del año escolar 2025-2026 estuvieron 12 puntos más arriba del promedio estatal en las Artes de Lenguaje Inglés y 14 puntos más altos en Matemáticas. Nueve de nuestras 17 escuelas de secundaria fueron nombradas "Escuelas Distinguidas de California" (California Distinguished Schools) del año 2026, la mayor cantidad de escuelas entre todos los distritos del Condado de Orange y el Distrito con el tercer número más alto de escuelas en California. Además, las escuelas secundarias del GGUSD lograron nuevamente impresionantes clasificaciones en la lista de U.S. News & World Report de las mejores escuelas secundarias de los Estados Unidos.

Nuestros programas galardonados de Inmersión en Dos Idiomas, tanto en Español y Vietnamita, siguen expandiéndose. Basándose en su éxito, anunciamos nuestros planes para ampliar nuestro programa

See **Superintendent** • *Page 4*

Đường Hướng Garden Grove Chắp Cánh Cho Học Sinh Vươn Đến Thành Công

Năm học mới đã khởi đầu thật thuận lợi! Bước vào năm thứ 14 trong vai trò Tổng Giám Đốc Học Khu Garden Grove, tôi luôn trân trọng và biết ơn sự đồng hành của toàn thể quý phụ huynh, nhân viên và các em học sinh. Cùng nhau hợp tác, chúng ta tiếp tục giữ vững ba mục tiêu: trang bị cho mọi học sinh năng lực học tập (Mục tiêu 1), năng lực cá nhân (Mục tiêu 2), để từ đó tự tin thành công trên đường đời (Mục tiêu 3).

GGUSD tiếp tục đạt nhiều thành tích ở cấp quận hạt, tiểu bang và toàn quốc. Trong 7 năm liền, kết quả thi SBAC của học sinh chúng ta đều cao hơn tỷ lệ trung bình của quận hạt và tiểu bang về cả hai môn Anh Văn (ELA) và Toán. Trong niên học 2025–26, điểm thi SBAC về môn ELA của học sinh GGUSD cao hơn mức trung bình của tiểu bang là 12 điểm và cao hơn 14 điểm về môn Toán. Trong số 17 trường trung học của học khu, 9 trường được xếp vào hàng Các Trường Ưu Tú Của California Năm 2026 — dẫn đầu trong Hạt Orange và đứng thứ ba trên toàn tiểu bang California với số lượng trường được tuyên dương. Ngoài ra, các trường trung học cấp II của GGUSD tiếp tục đạt danh hiệu Những Trường Trung Học Cấp II Hàng Đầu Hoa Kỳ do Báo Hoa Kỳ và Thông Tin Thế Giới (U.S. News & World Report) bình chọn.

Với những giải thưởng đã đạt được, các chương trình song ngữ tiếng Tây Ban Nha và tiếng Việt của học khu ngày càng phát triển. Trên đà thành công này, học khu đã thông báo kế hoạch mở thêm chương trình song ngữ tiếng Việt tại Trường Tiểu Học Anthony nhằm tạo thêm cơ hội cho nhiều học sinh thông thạo cả Anh và Việt Ngữ,

Continued from Page 3



GGUSD's Board of Education celebrates its nine secondary schools that earned the prestigious 2026 CA Distinguished School award including Los Amigos and Santiago high schools which earned it for the first time in school history.

La Mesa Directiva de Educación del GGUSD celebra a sus nueve escuelas secundarias que obtuvieron el prestigioso premio de Escuela Distinguida de California del año 2026, incluyendo a las escuelas secundarias Los Amigos y Santiago que recibieron dicho premio por primera vez en su historia escolar.

Hội Đồng Giáo Dục GGUSD mừng thành tích của 9 trường trung học cấp I và cấp II đã đạt danh hiệu Trường Ưu Tú của California năm 2026. Đây là lần đầu tiên trường trung học cấp II Los Amigos và Santiago đạt được danh hiệu này.

We are equally proud of the welcoming school environments that help our students thrive. This year, 41 GGUSD schools earned Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) awards for their work fostering positive school culture and climate—an impressive increase from 28 schools last year.

GGUSD has also become a model for Community Schools, which connect students and families with academic, health, mental health, and other essential resources. We are on track to become a Community Schools District in 2027 with every school across the district adopting the Community Schools framework that allows us to better serve families.

Our commitment to college and career readiness also remains strong. Supported by our robust AVID program, 64.5% of graduates completed the rigorous *a–g* college entrance

de Inmersión en Dos Idiomas en Vietnamita en la Escuela Primaria Anthony, brindando a más estudiantes la oportunidad de alcanzar el bilingüismo, la alfabetización en dos idiomas y la competencia cultural. El Distrito es reconocido como un modelo de excelencia en la educación bilingüe, después de haber sido reconocido a principios de este año con el premio Visionario Innovador de la Asociación de California para la Educación Bilingüe (Trailblazer Visionary Board Award) de la Asociación de Educación Bilingüe de California (CABE) y el premio Lynne Aoki por sus Múltiples Trayectorias hacia la Alfabetización Bilingüe (Lynne Aoki Multiple Pathways to Biliteracy Award) de la organización Californians Together.

Estamos igualmente orgullosos de los ambientes escolares acogedores que ayudan a nuestros estudiantes a prosperar. Este año, 41 escuelas del

đồng thời am hiểu và trân trọng các nền văn hoá. Chương Trình Song Ngữ Hội Nhập Tiếng Tây Ban Nha và Tiếng Việt của GGUSD được tuyên dương là mô hình kiểu mẫu về phẩm chất giảng dạy xuất sắc. Vào đầu năm nay, học khu vinh dự nhận giải thưởng Hội Đồng Giáo Dục Tiên Phong và Có T`ầm Nhìn Xa (Trailblazer Visionary Board Award) của Hiệp Hội Giáo Dục Song Ngữ California (CABE), cùng Giải Thưởng Lynne Aoki Dành cho Học Khu Có Nhi`ều Chương Trình Phát Triển các Kỹ Năng Song Ngữ của Hội Liên Hữu Người Dân California.

Chúng tôi cũng rất hãnh diện về môi trường học đường thân ái, nơi khuyến khích học sinh phát huy tối đa tiềm năng. Năm nay, 41 trường GGUSD đạt giải thưởng Hoàn Thiện Tác Phong và Hạnh Kiểm (PBIS) nhờ vào nỗ lực kiến tạo môi

See **Superintendent** • *Page 5*

Continued from Page 4

requirements, while student participation remained strong across our 15 Career and Technical Education pathways. We also opened our third Early College Academy (offered at Santiago, Los Amigos and now Bolsa Grande high schools), giving students the opportunity to earn college credits—and even an associate degree—at no cost while attending high school.

As we continue the school year, we remain committed to ensuring every student feels safe, supported, included, and prepared to succeed. Thank you to our families for your partnership and for trusting us with your children—because treating every student as if they were our own family is the Garden Grove Way.

GGUSD obtuvieron premios de Intervenciones y Apoyos para el Comportamiento Positivo (PBIS) por su trabajo al fomentar una cultura y un clima escolar positivo, un aumento impresionante comparado a las 28 escuelas del año pasado.

El GGUSD también se ha convertido en un modelo de Escuelas Comunitarias, las cuales vinculan a los estudiantes y a las familias con recursos académicos, de salud, de salud mental y otros servicios esenciales. Estamos en camino de convertirnos para el año 2027 en un Distrito de Escuelas Comunitarias, con todas las escuelas del Distrito adoptando el modelo de Escuelas Comunitarias que nos permite atender mejor a las familias.

Nuestro compromiso con la preparación universitaria y de carreras profesionales también se mantiene firme. Gracias al respaldo de nuestro sólido programa AVID, el 64.5 % de los graduados cumplió con los rigurosos requisitos de admisión universitaria de la a-g, al mismo tiempo que la participación de nuestros estudiantes se mantuvo elevada en 15 trayectorias de Educación Técnica y de Carreras. Asimismo, inauguramos nuestra tercera Academia de Preuniversidad (Early College Academy), disponible en las escuelas secundarias Santiago, Los Amigos y ahora Bolsa Grande, lo que brinda a los estudiantes la oportunidad de obtener créditos universitarios — e incluso un título de asociado — sin costo alguno mientras cursan la escuela secundaria.

A medida que avanzamos en el año escolar, reafirmamos nuestro compromiso de garantizar que cada estudiante se sienta seguro, apoyado, incluido y preparado para triunfar. Agradecemos a nuestras familias por su colaboración y por confiarnos a sus hijos, porque el tratar a cada estudiante como si fuera de nuestra propia familia esa es a la "Manera Garden Grove".

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trường và văn hoá học đường tích cực— một bước tiến đáng khích lệ so với 28 trường vào năm trước.

GGUSD đang dẫn đầu trong việc xây dựng mô hình Trường Học Kết Nối Cộng Đồng, nhằm kết nối học sinh và gia đình đến các nguồn hỗ trợ thiết yếu về học vấn, y tế, sức khoẻ tâm thần và nhiều nhu cầu khác. Học khu đang từng bước hướng đến mục tiêu trở thành Học Khu Thực Hiện Mô Hình Trường Học Kết Nối Cộng Đồng vào năm 2027, khi tất cả các trường trong học khu đều thực thi mô hình này nhằm đáp ứng nhu cầu của học sinh và gia đình được hiệu quả hơn.

Chúng tôi luôn giữ vững cam kết chuẩn bị cho học sinh sẵn sàng vào đại học và chọn ngành nghề. Nhờ vào sự phát triển mạnh mẽ của chương trình AVID, 64.5% học sinh tốt nghiệp của học khu đã hoàn tất các điều kiện cam go a–g để được xét tuyển vào đại học. Đồng thời, học sinh tiếp tục hưởng ứng 15 ngành nghề thuộc chương trình Giáo Dục Kỹ Thuật và Hướng Nghiệp của học khu. Năm nay, chúng tôi cũng mở rộng Chương Trình Vào Đại Học Sớm tại địa điểm thứ ba (đã mở tại trường trung học cấp II Santiago và Los Amigos, nay bổ sung thêm trường Bolsa Grande). Chương trình tạo cơ hội cho học sinh vừa hoàn tất chương trình trung học, vừa đạt tín chỉ đại học ngay khi còn đang ở bậc trung học. Đặc biệt, các em còn có thể lấy bằng cao đẳng mà không phải trả học phí.

Trong những tháng ngày sắp tới, chúng tôi sẽ tiếp tục nỗ lực để mọi học sinh luôn cảm thấy an toàn, được quan tâm, chăm sóc và nhận được sự hỗ trợ cần thiết để thành công. Chân thành cảm ơn quý phụ huynh và gia đình luôn đồng hành, tin tưởng và giao phó cho chúng tôi trọng trách giáo dục con em học sinh. Chúng tôi luôn trân quý mỗi học sinh như chính con em của mình — đó chính là Đường Hướng Garden Grove.

Board of Education



Bob Harden
President



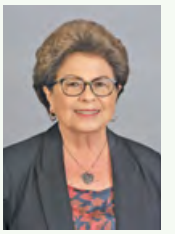
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Vice President



Walter Muneton
Member



Dina L. Nguyen, Esq.
Member



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Member

Historic School Renaming Inspires Future Generations

Just before the start of the new school year, Garden Grove Unified School District celebrated the official renaming of Rosita Elementary School to Frank and Irene Palomino Elementary School during a moving ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Board of Education on August 6.

Frank and Irene Palomino were among five plaintiff families in the landmark *Mendez et al. v. Westminster et al.* case, which helped end school segregation in California and laid important groundwork for the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Their family's connection to this school and community runs especially deep. The Palominos lived directly across the street from the campus for generations and their children attended Rosita Elementary, Irvine Intermediate, and Los Amigos High schools.

Nearly 200 people attended the historic celebration, including generations of the Palomino family, students, staff, alumni, elected officials, and community members. The ceremony included remarks from Superintendent Dr. Gabriela Mafi, Board President Bob Harden, Trustee Walter Muneton, fifth-grade student Sofia Perez, and members of the Palomino family. Students performed "Cielito Lindo," and elected officials presented certificates recognizing the significance of the occasion before joining the Palomino family and Board of Education for the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

El histórico cambio de nombre de una escuela inspira a las futuras generaciones.

Justo antes del inicio del nuevo año escolar, el 6 de agosto, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Garden Grove celebró el cambio oficial del nombre de la Escuela Primaria Rosita a Escuela Primaria Frank e Irene Palomino durante una emotiva ceremonia de corte de listón organizada por la Mesa Directiva de Educación.

Frank e Irene Palomino formaron parte de las cinco familias demandantes en el histórico caso Méndez et al. vs Westminster, lo cual contribuyó a poner fin a la segregación escolar en California y sentaron bases importantes para la decisión de la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos en el caso Brown vs la Mesa Directiva de Educación. El vínculo de esta familia con la escuela y la comunidad es especialmente profundo. Los Palomino vivieron justo enfrente del plantel durante generaciones, y sus hijos asistieron a la Escuela Primaria Rosita, a la Escuela Intermedia Irvine y a la Escuela Secundaria Los Amigos.

Cerca de 200 personas asistieron a la histórica celebración, incluyendo a varias generaciones de la familia Palomino, estudiantes, personal, exalumnos, funcionarios electos y miembros de la comunidad. La ceremonia contó con comentarios de la superintendente, Dra. Gabriela Mafi; el presidente de la Mesa Directiva, Bob Harden; el miembro de la Mesa Directiva, Walter Muñetón; la estudiante de quinto grado Sofía Pérez; y miembros de la familia Palomino.

Tên Trường Mang Ý Nghĩa Lịch Sử Tạo Khí Thế Cho Thế Hệ Mai Sau

Ngay trước khi khai giảng niên học mới, vào ngày 6 tháng 8, dưới sự chủ toạ của Hội Đồng Giáo Dục, Khu Học Chính Garden Grove đã chính thức tổ chức lễ cắt ruy băng đổi tên Trường Tiểu Học Rosita thành Trường Tiểu Học Frank và Irene Palomino.

Ông Frank và bà Irene Palomino là một trong năm gia đình đứng tên trong vụ kiện lịch sử Mendez et al. v. Westminster et al (Mendez và những người đồng kiện Westminster và những bị cáo khác), góp phần chấm dứt tình trạng phân biệt chủng tộc trong các trường công lập tại California và tạo sự ảnh hưởng quan trọng đến phán quyết của Tối Cao Pháp Viện Hoa Kỳ trong vụ kiện Brown v. Board of Education. Gia đình Palomino có sự gắn bó sâu đậm với ngôi trường và cộng đồng nơi đây. Qua nhiều thế hệ, gia đình Palomino sinh sống đối diện với khuôn viên trường; các con cháu của họ cũng từng theo học tại Trường Tiểu Học Rosita, Trường Trung Học Cấp I Irvine và Trường Trung Học Cấp II Los Amigos.

Gần 200 người đã tham dự buổi lễ đánh dấu sự kiện lịch sử này, trong đó có nhiều thế hệ trong gia đình Palomino, học sinh, nhân viên, cựu học sinh, các vị dân cử và nhiều thành viên trong cộng đồng. Buổi lễ có phần phát biểu của Tổng Giám Đốc Học Khu Tiến Sĩ Gabriela Mafi, Chủ Tịch Hội Đồng Giáo Dục Bob Harden, Uỷ Viên Walter Muneton, em Sofia Perez, học sinh lớp 5, cùng các thành viên gia đình Palomino. Các em học sinh trình diễn ca khúc "Cielito Lindo". Các

See **Board of Education** • *Page 7*

Board of Education

Continued from Page 6



Garden Grove Unified School District's Board of Education hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the renaming of Rosita Elementary to Frank and Irene Palomino Elementary School.

La Mesa Directiva de Educación del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Garden Grove organizó una ceremonia de corte del listón para celebrar el cambio de nombre de la Escuela Primaria Rosita a Escuela Primaria Frank e Irene Palomino.

Hội Đồng Giáo Dục Khu Học Chính Garden Grove đã tổ chức cắt băng kỷ niệm lễ đổi tên Trường Tiểu Học Rosita thành Trường Tiểu Học "Frank and Irene Palomino".

As a Board of Education, we deeply value the diversity of the communities we serve and honor the courageous families whose fight for equality helped make GGUSD the wonderfully diverse district it is today. We are especially grateful to the Palomino family for entrusting us with their story and allowing us to preserve and share this important legacy with generations of students.

The effort to rename the school began when Trustee Walter Muneton connected with Andrew Palomino, the grandson of Frank and Irene, and introduced the family to district leadership. That initial conversation grew into a thoughtful community engagement process that included a public survey and public hearing.

This renaming represents far more than a change to the name of a school. It ensures that every student who walks onto this campus learns that ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things. Frank and Irene did not seek recognition. They simply believed their children deserved the same educational opportunities as every other child.

Antes de unirse a la familia Palomino y a la Mesa Directiva de Educación para el corte del listón ceremonial, los estudiantes cantaron "Cielito Lindo" y los funcionarios electos entregaron certificados que reconocían la importancia de la ocasión.

Como Mesa Directiva de Educación, valoramos profundamente la diversidad de las comunidades a las que servimos y honramos a las familias valientes cuya lucha por la igualdad ha contribuido a convertir al GGUSD en el Distrito maravillosamente diverso que es hoy. Agradecemos especialmente a la familia Palomino por confiarnos su historia y permitirnos preservar y compartir con generaciones de estudiantes este importante legado.

El esfuerzo para cambiar el nombre de la escuela empezó cuando el miembro de la Mesa Directiva, Walter Muñetón, se puso en contacto con Andrew Palomino — nieto de Frank e Irene— y presentó a la familia a los líderes del Distrito. Esa conversación inicial dio

vị dân cử trao giấy ghi nhận ý nghĩa đặc biệt của sự kiện, trước khi cùng gia đình Palomino và Hội Đồng Giáo Dục thực hiện nghi thức cắt băng.

Trong vai trò Hội Đồng Giáo Dục, chúng tôi luôn trân trọng sự đa dạng của cộng đồng và đề cao tinh thần dũng cảm của các gia đình đã kiên trì đấu tranh cho sự bình đẳng, góp phần tạo nên một GGUSD đa dạng và phong phú như ngày hôm nay. Chúng tôi đặc biệt tri ân gia đình Palomino đã tin tưởng trao gửi câu chuyện của mình, đồng thời cho phép chúng tôi gìn giữ và lưu truyền giá trị lịch sử quý báu cho các thế hệ học sinh mai sau.

Việc đổi tên trường khởi đầu khi Uỷ Viên Hội Đồng Giáo Dục Walter Muneton liên lạc với Andrew Palomino, cháu trai của ông Frank và bà Irene, sau đó giới thiệu gia đình với ban điều hành học khu. Sau cuộc đối thoại này, học khu đã thực hiện tiến trình tham vấn với cộng đồng, bao gồm cuộc thăm dò ý kiến công chúng và buổi điều trần công khai.

Việc đổi tên trường mang ý nghĩa thật sâu sắc. Qua đó, mỗi học sinh khi đến trường sẽ hiểu rằng bất kỳ ai cũng có thể làm nên những điều phi thường. Ông bà Frank và Irene không mong cầu được

See **Board of Education** • *Page 8*

Board of Education

Continued from Page 7

Because they had the courage to stand up for what was right, generations of students have benefited.

Fifth-grade student Sofia Perez captured the meaning of the occasion beautifully, sharing that students who attend the newly named school will be reminded each day that one family can make a difference and that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness, fairness, and respect.

The August 6 ceremony marked GGUSD's first school renaming since 1985. The Board of Education unanimously approved the new name on June 16, 2026, following a process that demonstrated overwhelming community support.

We are honored that Frank and Irene Palomino Elementary School will continue proudly serving its students and families while ensuring the Palomino family's contributions to educational equality remain an enduring part of the school's identity. Their names will inspire future generations to understand the importance of courage, justice, and standing up for what is right.

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paso a un proceso reflexivo de participación comunitaria que incluyó una encuesta y una audiencia pública.

Este cambio de nombre representa mucho más que una simple modificación en la denominación de una escuela. Garantiza que cada estudiante que pise este plantel aprenda que las personas comunes pueden lograr cosas extraordinarias. Frank e Irene Palomino no buscaban reconocimiento; simplemente creían que sus hijos merecían las mismas oportunidades educativas que cualquier otro niño. Gracias a que tuvieron la valentía de defender lo que era justo, generaciones de estudiantes se han visto beneficiados.

La alumna de quinto grado Sofía Pérez, expresó maravillosamente el significado de la ocasión al resaltar que para los estudiantes que asistan a la escuela recién nombrada, será un recordatorio diario de que una sola familia puede marcar la diferencia y que todos merecen ser tratados con amabilidad, igualdad y respeto.

La ceremonia del 6 de agosto marcó el primer cambio del nombre de una escuela del GGUSD desde 1985. La Mesa Directiva de Educación aprobó por unanimidad el 16 de junio de 2026 el nuevo nombre de la escuela tras un proceso que demostró un apoyo inmenso por parte de la comunidad,

Es un honor para nosotros que la Escuela Primaria Frank e Irene Palomino continúe sirviendo con orgullo a sus estudiantes y familias, asegurando al mismo tiempo que las contribuciones de la familia Palomino a la igualdad educativa perduren como parte esencial de la identidad de la escuela. Sus nombres inspirarán a las futuras generaciones a comprender la importancia del valor, la justicia y la defensa de lo correcto.

---

tuyên dương; điều đơn giản ông bà mong muốn là con cái họ cũng được hưởng những cơ hội học tập bình đẳng như mọi đứa trẻ khác. Chính vì lòng can đảm, ông bà đã dám đứng lên bảo vệ lẽ phải, đã mang lại cơ hội học tập bình đẳng cho nhiều thế hệ học sinh sau này.

Em Sofia Perez, học sinh lớp 5, trình bày ý nghĩa sâu sắc của sự kiện khi cho biết tên mới của trường sẽ hằng ngày nhắc nhở các thế hệ học sinh rằng một gia đình

cũng có thể góp phần làm nên những đổi thay tích cực cho cộng đồng, và mọi người đều phải cư xử với nhau bằng lòng nhân ái, sự công bằng và tinh thần tương kính.

Buổi lễ ngày 6 tháng 8 là sự kiện đổi tên trường lần đầu tiên diễn ra tại GGUSD kể từ năm 1985. Trước đó, vào ngày 16 tháng 6 năm 2026, sau khi nhận được sự ủng hộ mạnh mẽ của cộng đồng qua quá trình tham khảo ý kiến, Hội Đồng Giáo Dục đã đồng thuận thông qua đề nghị đổi tên trường.

Chúng tôi cảm thấy vinh dự khi Trường Tiểu Học Frank và Irene Palomino sẽ tiếp tục đồng hành cùng các em học sinh và gia đình trong niềm hãnh diện, đồng thời ghi lại những đóng góp của gia đình Palomino về quá trình đấu tranh cho sự bình đẳng giáo dục sẽ mãi được ghi nhớ trong lịch sử của trường. Tên tuổi của ông bà sẽ tạo động lực cho các thế hệ mai sau, giúp các em hiểu được giá trị của lòng can đảm, công lý và tinh thần đứng lên bảo vệ lẽ phải.

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A shared call for the year ahead: All. Together. Now.



Dr. Stefan Bean
Superintendent
Orange County
Dept. of Education

Four lads from Liverpool known as The Beatles wrote plenty of songs about love, possibility and the human experience. (And at least one about an octopus.) But there's a title from their varied catalog that sounds less like a song and more like a call to action: All Together Now.

Of course, this is a phrase that a conductor, bandleader or music teacher might use just before everyone joins in. But when we separate those three words, the meaning becomes something more:

All. Together. Now.

Now it can be heard as an urgent rallying cry — and one that speaks directly to our work. It captures both the shared responsibility we have to support students, families, educators and school communities across Orange County and the gravity of this moment. As such, it's a theme I plan to return to throughout the year, including at our next State of Education event.

See **OCDE•** *Page 11*

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OCDE • *From Page 11*

Let's quickly break it down.

"All" means every student, every family, every educator and every community. It's about recognizing that students come to us with different experiences, strengths and needs while holding the same belief for each of them: You belong here. Your future matters. You deserve the opportunity to become the best version of yourself.

"Together" reminds us that education is a shared endeavor. Students succeed because people notice them, believe in them and open doors for them. Teachers work alongside families. Schools work alongside community partners. Districts learn from one another. Across Orange County, progress happens when we come together, listen, lift one another and build systems that help every student see what is possible.

And then there is "Now."

We are at a defining moment of consequence and possibility for public education. Enrollment patterns continue to shift, creating financial pressures for school systems whose funding is closely tied to student attendance. Districts are being asked to plan carefully, manage rising costs and make difficult decisions while continuing to provide strong educational programs.

At the same time, new investments are creating opportunities to strengthen student supports, expand

See **OCDE** • *Page 47*





A+ Medical Miller Minute



Stacey Epstein, M.D.
pediatrician,
Miller Children's & Women's Care Network

The Four Ts of Type 1 Diabetes: Warning Signs Every Parent Should Know

In my 25 years of practice, I have taken care of many patients with type 1 diabetes, including a few that have walked into my office with no known diagnosis, and walked out with this new lifelong condition. In fact, while writing this article, I met a sweet 11-year-old boy, who had been "sick for months," and I ended up rushing him to the ER for what turned out to be type 1 diabetes in the early stages of getting very sick. In a flash, his life changed dramatically.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition, and like other autoimmune conditions, is on the rise. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the body's immune system attacks the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. Unlike Type 2 diabetes, it is not caused by diet, lifestyle, or too much sugar. It can develop in children of any age, often with no family history of diabetes.

A simple way to remember the symptoms of Type 1 diabetes is the "Four Ts": Tired, Thirsty, Toilet and Thinner.

Children with Type 1 diabetes may become unusually tired because their bodies are unable to properly use sugar for energy. They may feel fatigued, have difficulty concentrating or seem less interested in their usual activities.

Many children also become excessively thirsty, drinking more fluids than normal and frequently asking for water. Increased thirst is often accompanied by more trips to the toilet, including frequent urination during the day, waking from sleep to pee, or even bedwetting in a child who previously stayed dry through the night.

The final "T" is thinner. Despite eating normally or sometimes more than normal, children with Type 1 diabetes may begin losing weight because their bodies cannot effectively use glucose, the primary source of energy in the body.

If you notice one or more of these warning signs, contact your child's pediatrician as soon as possible. A simple blood glucose test can help determine whether diabetes is the cause. Early diagnosis is important because untreated Type 1 diabetes can lead to diabetic ketoacidosis, a serious condition that requires immediate emergency medical care. Symptoms of diabetic ketoacidosis include vomiting, abdominal pain, rapid breathing, and dehydration.

With early diagnosis, education and ongoing support, children with Type 1 diabetes can thrive, leading active, healthy lives.

Scan to learn more and schedule an appointment with a pediatrician.



At 11 months, Pablo was fighting for his life.

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

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

Learn more at millerchildrens.org/care

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Alamitos *Intermediate School*

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



Abbie Stirone
Principal

Alamitos Intermediate Earns Prestigious PBIS Platinum Recognition

Alamitos Intermediate School has achieved PBIS Platinum status, the highest award for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. This recognition reflects the school's comprehensive framework centered on PRIDE: Purpose, Responsibility, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence.

Universal Tier 1 supports set a strong foundation for all Condors. The year begins with a high-energy Condor PRIDE Kick-Off, combining direct behavioral lessons with engaging games, followed by monthly Condor Character Counts (C3) lessons emphasizing community, care, and commitment.

To ensure every student succeeds, Alamitos integrates targeted Tier 2 interventions for students needing extra behavioral or academic guidance. Strategies like Check-In/Check-Out (CICO) mentoring, targeted skill-building groups, and individualized academic progress monitoring provide immediate, personalized support before challenges escalate.

As a dedicated community school, Alamitos connects campus culture directly to family engagement. Strong academic and socio-emotional wellness supports are reinforced through interactive parent workshops, Family Fun Nights, and inspiring assemblies celebrating student growth.

This Platinum honor highlights the shared dedication of students, staff, and families in building an inclusive community where every Condor gets the exact support needed to soar.



Alamitos provides a positive and fun school environment where students find connection and show off their Condor pride.

Allen *Elementary School*

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



Jamie Wells
Principal

Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Ethan Allen Elementary

Last spring, Ethan Allen Elementary proudly introduced a new Cinco de Mayo celebration designed to help our scholars learn about and appreciate Latino culture, history, traditions, and community. With the support of our PTO and staff, our campus was transformed with colorful decorations that created a festive and welcoming atmosphere. Students were treated to a performance by GGUSD's own Monroe Elementary Language Academy students who delivered impressive performances showcasing traditional dances. One of our Allen parents also shared a traditional mariachi song, bringing a meaningful connection to the celebration. Our PTO generously provided every student with a churro tasting, allowing students to experience part of Latino cuisine. Multi-age student hosts helped lead the celebration and shared information about Latino culture and traditions with their peers. This new event brought our school community together while creating meaningful opportunities for students to learn, celebrate diversity, and develop a deeper appreciation for the cultures represented in our Allen family.





Allen Elementary students were treated to fabulous performances by students from Monroe Elementary Language Academy during their school's Cinco de Mayo Celebration.

Anthony *Elementary School*

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



Kathleen Ash
Principal

Celebrating Silver: Anthony Elementary Earns PBIS Recognition

It is an honor to announce that Anthony Elementary has earned Silver Recognition from the California PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) organization! This prestigious honor highlights our dedicated staff, supportive families, and outstanding students who make our school a positive place to learn and grow every day.

Our PBIS framework sets clear, schoolwide expectations that help every child succeed academically and socially. Students earn positive referrals and special tickets for demonstrating great behavior, which they can redeem for exciting prizes. For learners who need a little extra encouragement, our Check-In/Check-Out program provides targeted daily support and mentorship to keep them on the path to success.

Thank you to our entire school community for embracing PBIS. Together, we are building a safe, supportive, and joyful environment where every Anthony Elementary student can shine!



As part of its PBIS program, Anthony Elementary is committed to showcasing and celebrating student success and work.

Barker *Elementary School*

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



Tiann Parker
Principal

We the Kids: Barker Students Celebrate Constitution Day!

On September 17th, Barker Elementary School commemorated Constitution Day with fun and meaningful lessons that helped students have a better understanding of the U.S. Constitution's history and value. Students participated in hands-on activities to learn the importance of rights and responsibilities. In making history tangible, the lessons helped students see the Constitution as a living guide for fairness and rights. Students read the preamble, colored pictures, and worked together to create classroom and school-wide constitutions. This activity provided an opportunity for students to collaborate, ask questions, think critically, and actively participate in democracy as they developed their own constitutions to build a positive learning environment at Barker. The future of the United States is in these young hands, and it was amazing to see them realize that their voice is a vital part of our country's story and motivated to go forth and be awesome, informed citizens!



Barker students engage in decision-making, compromise, and fairness as they work together to build Barker constitutions.

Bell *Intermediate School*

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



Chris Holland
Principal

Connected at Bell: Clubs, Sports, and More!

At Bell Intermediate, we believe every student should have a place to belong. Our clubs, activities, arts, athletics, and academic programs give students opportunities to discover their passions, build friendships, and become part of something bigger than themselves.

This fall's Club Rush connected students with groups ranging from Scouting and Asian Student Association to Latinos Unidos, Cooking, Animation, Fellowship, and Academic Pentathlon. Through Bell Buddies, students build friendships and empathy while supporting classmates with special needs.

Our VAPA programs, including band, orchestra, choir, and dance, bring creativity and energy to campus. Quarterly mixers and ASB events build school spirit, while intramural sports, including volleyball, basketball, flag football, soccer, and softball, give students opportunities to compete, collaborate, and grow as teammates.

At Bell, building connections is part of who we are. We all BELL-ong!



At Club Rush, students explore the school's many opportunities to get engaged in arts, athletics, clubs, and more.

Bolsa Grande *High School*

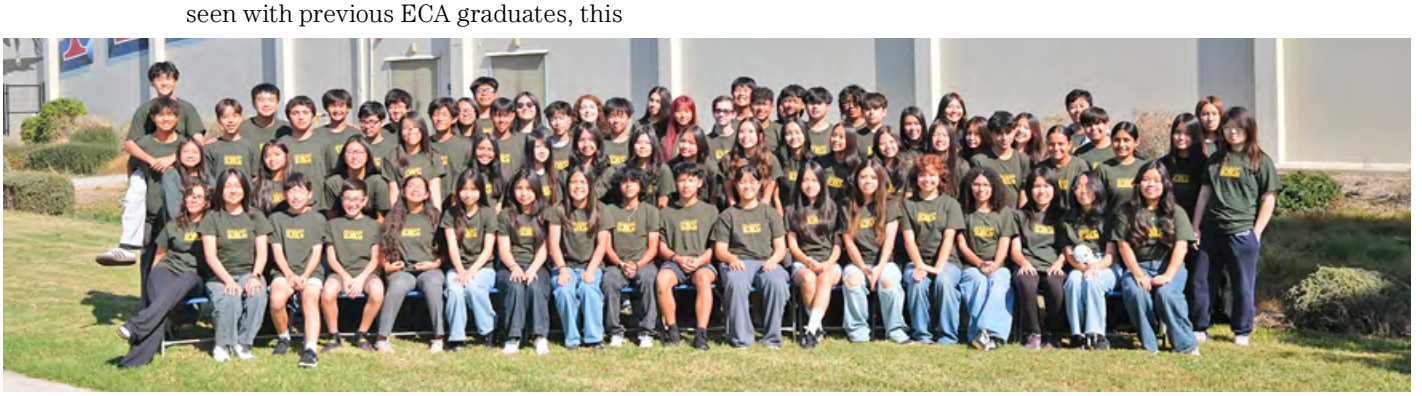
9401 Westminster Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6424 • www.bolsagrande.org



Linda Giuliani
Principal

Bolsa Grande Welcomes First Early College Academy Class

Bolsa Grande High School welcomed its inaugural Early College Academy class. The Class of 2030 has registered as Golden West College students and begun their work toward earning an Associate's Degree alongside their high school diploma. Each of these scholars will graduate from high school with 60 college units and the potential to enter university as upperclassmen. As seen with previous ECA graduates, this program enables students to pursue dual majors at the university level and thoroughly prepares them for the rigor of college-level coursework. During a recent tour of Golden West College this past summer, the Class of 2030 explored various academic and personal resources available to them throughout their four years. These resources include comprehensive tutoring services, research library, databases, and STEM lab. Students also have access to personal resources including an on-campus food pantry and health services. We are excited for these freshmen to begin their experience as dual-enrolled students.



Bolsa Grande celebrates its inaugural Early College Academy class.

Brookhurst *Elementary School*

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



Nicole Van Wilgen Moore
Principal

Brookhurst Elementary School Earns Bronze PBIS Recognition

Brookhurst Elementary School is proud to announce that we have been recognized as a 2026 Bronze PBIS School by California PBIS for our commitment to creating a positive, supportive, and inclusive school environment. California PBIS recognizes schools that implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports with fidelity aligned to the national PBIS framework.

At Brookhurst, our PBIS framework is brought to life through our schoolwide SWIM expectations including: **S** – Show Respect, **W** – Work Hard, **I** – Include Everyone, and **M** – Make Responsible Choices.

These expectations guide how our students learn, interact, and contribute to our school community. Through consistent expectations, positive recognition, and opportunities for students to practice responsible decision-making, we are building a school culture where every student feels supported, connected, and ready to learn. We are proud of our students, staff, and families for making Brookhurst a place where everyone can SWIM!



Brookhurst's Dolphin fosters a fun and supportive climate and culture.

Bryant *Arts Academy*

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



Kristine Levenson
Principal

Motivated to Succeed

Bryant Elementary is proud to announce that we have been awarded the PBIS Platinum Award - the highest level of recognition for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports - for the third consecutive year! This award reflects the strong partnership between our staff, students, and community in creating a safe, positive, and inclusive school environment. At Bryant, PBIS isn't just about behavior—it's about building a strong sense of belonging and bringing students together as a community where everyone feels valued and supported.



Bryant Elementary earned a PBIS Platinum Award for the third consecutive year.

Our mascot is a bear, and through PBIS, we promote positive and safe behavior as well as school spirit by reminding our students to GROWL: Give and earn respect, Remain safe, Own your actions, Work with pride, and Love to learn. Students earn GROWL tickets for these traits, which can be redeemed at the PBIS Store for prizes. These efforts have created a thriving school culture, where students are engaged, connected, and motivated to succeed.

Carrillo *Elementary School*

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



Ryan Loberger
Principal

Inspiring College and Career Readiness

GGUSD Superintendent Dr. Mafi recently visited Carrillo to discuss options for college and career readiness with students. This was part of the College and Career Mentorship Program, where all sixth grade students receive guidance and support from recent GGUSD graduates to plan for their future. In addition, Carrillo teachers participated in training for AVID, and our school is now 100% trained. All students will now have access to research-based skills and strategies to build scholarly habits and set them on a path for success in intermediate school, high school and beyond. In addition to AVID and CCMP, Carrillo also works with Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) to provide students with a framework to make positive choices in the community. We also provide many ways for parents to participate in the school community through parent education groups, the PTO, and Pastries with the Principal to name a few examples. We are proud of the programs and support we are able to provide to our students!



GGUSD Superintendent Dr. Mafi presents to Carrillo 5th & 6th Graders about college and career options after high school.

Carver *Early Childhood Education Center*

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



Jennifer Epp
Principal

Building Big Ideas: Special Education Preschoolers Bring Monuments to Life

Our special education preschoolers are proving that big ideas can begin with small hands!

In a recent classroom experience, students became architects, engineers, and explorers as they used Magna-Tiles to recreate famous landmarks from around the world, including the Statue of Liberty, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and other iconic structures.

Through hands on building and exploration, students practiced spatial awareness, fine motor skills, problem solving, creativity, communication, and collaboration while developing early STEM concepts. Students examined photographs of real-world structures, made choices about shapes and materials, experimented with balance and construction, and proudly brought their own ideas to life.

What makes this experience especially powerful is the opportunity for students to learn through play, exploration, and meaningful hands-on experiences. Every structure represented more than a building, it represented curiosity, persistence, imagination, and a growing sense of what students are capable of creating.



Special education preschoolers engage in hands-on learning with Magna-Tiles.

Clinton Corner *Family Campus*

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



Emma Druitt
Director
Early Childhood Education

A Wonderful Start to the School Year–GGUSD State Preschool

The beginning of a new school year is always a special time in preschool. Classrooms have come alive with curious little learners, welcoming teachers, and the joyful sounds of children exploring, playing, and making new friends.

Our preschool students have been busy getting to know their teachers, learning classroom routines, and discovering that school is a place where they can feel safe, supported, and excited to learn. From building friendships and practicing social-emotional skills to exploring new materials and engaging in hands-on, play-based learning, each day brings new opportunities for growth.

Our dedicated teachers have worked thoughtfully to create warm, nurturing environments where every child feels a sense of belonging. We are especially grateful to our families for helping make the transition into a new school year a positive experience for their children.

While the first weeks can bring a mix of excitement, anticipation, and a few big feelings, we are already seeing our students grow more comfortable, confident, and connected. We look forward to all the learning, laughter, and memorable moments that the year ahead will bring!



Clinton Corner Family Campus gave students a warm welcome on the first day of school.

Clinton *Elementary School*

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



Beth Cusimano
Principal

Kicking Off Hispanic Heritage Month at Clinton Elementary

Clinton Elementary kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a schoolwide celebration of music, dance, and culture.

Our school liaison, Anita Garcia, led students, teachers, and parents in learning a traditional dance together. Clinton student Benjamin added to the excitement by playing the accordion as Anita guided the group through the steps. It was wonderful to see our community learning, laughing, and celebrating together.

This special event was a beautiful reminder that music and culture have the power to connect us. We are grateful to Anita and Benjamin for sharing their talents and helping us begin our heritage month in such a memorable way. Their contributions set the tone for a month of learning, appreciation, and honoring the diverse cultures, traditions, histories, and contributions of the Hispanic community.



Clinton Elementary school liaison Anita Garcia and student Benjamin shared their talents to bring Hispanic culture and traditions to life!

Cook *Elementary School*

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



Ryan Baker
Principal

Cook Lions Roaring Toward Success

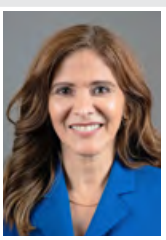
Cook Elementary School is committed to academic excellence, positive relationships, and preparing students for future success. Our annual CAASPP results demonstrate strong achievement across all academic areas with scores beating the county and state averages. Our focus on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) has strengthened students' positive connections to school by promoting respectful relationships, clear expectations, and a supportive learning environment. Cook Student Council further empowers students through school-based decision-making and peer counseling, developing leadership and problem-solving skills. Go Lions!



**Big ideas, school spirit and a whole lot of teamwork–
meet the Student Council crew helping make their school a great place to be!**

Crosby *Elementary School*

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



Dianna Rangel
Principal

Crosby Elementary Celebrates PBIS Gold Award

At Crosby Elementary, creating a safe, respectful, and positive school community is a shared commitment among our scholars and staff. This year, Crosby scholars participated in a PBIS Rotation, an important part of how we teach, practice, and reinforce positive behavior expectations across our campus.

During the rotation, classes visited stations where Crosby staff reviewed and modeled expectations for the playground, restrooms, hallways, cafeteria, and assemblies. Students had the opportunity to learn what safe, respectful, and responsible behavior looks like in different areas of our school.

Through PBIS, we explicitly teach expectations, provide opportunities to practice them, recognize positive choices, and reteach when needed. These efforts help our scholars develop habits that contribute to a positive school community.

We are proud to announce that Crosby Elementary earned the 2026 PBIS Gold Implementation Award! This recognition celebrates the dedication of our entire Crosby team and scholars who demonstrate positive attitudes, respect, and responsibility every day.



Crosby students learn expectations for a safe and fun environment on the playground.

Doig *Intermediate School*

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



Juan Alvarez
Principal

ASB Class

This school year, Doig Intermediate launched a new Associated Student Body (ASB) class designed to give students meaningful opportunities to develop leadership skills, build school spirit, and contribute to a positive school culture. Since its beginning, the ASB class has worked to create a more welcoming and engaging environment for all students by organizing fun and inclusive activities during lunch. These activities provide students with opportunities to connect with their peers, participate in school events, and enjoy their lunchtime in a positive setting. From games and competitions to spirit activities and opportunities for students to socialize, ASB has helped make lunch a time when students can build friendships and feel a stronger sense of belonging to the Doig community. The ASB students have taken ownership of planning and supporting these activities, demonstrating responsibility, teamwork, creativity, and leadership. Their efforts have also encouraged more students to become involved in school life and take pride in being part of Doig Intermediate. By creating opportunities for students to interact outside of the classroom, ASB has helped strengthen relationships among students and promote a school culture centered on respect, effort, and pride. The success of the ASB class demonstrates the positive impact students can have when they are given a voice and an opportunity to lead. Moving forward, we look forward to expanding ASB activities and continuing to create experiences that bring students together and make Doig Intermediate a place where every student feels connected, valued, and proud to belong.



Students in Doig's new ASB class have spearheaded a variety of new fun activities to enhance school spirit.

Eisenhower *Elementary School*

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



Chris Ash
Principal

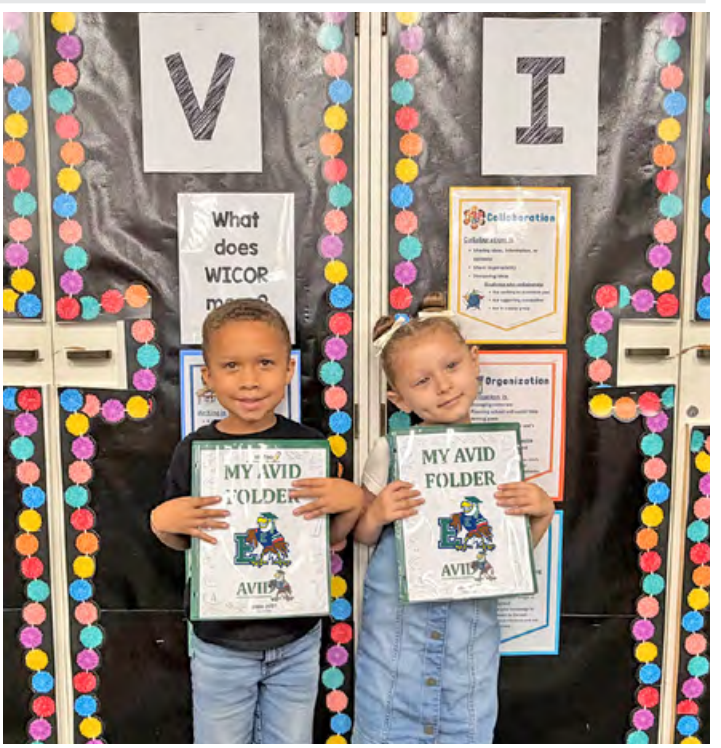
AVID at Eisenhower: Building Skills for the Future

At Eisenhower Elementary, we are excited to bring AVID into every classroom! AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, and it helps students develop the skills, confidence, and habits they need to be successful in school and in life.

Our entire staff has been trained in AVID strategies, and we are kicking off the year with a special focus on organization. Every Eisenhower student has an AVID binder and planner to help keep track of assignments, materials, goals, and important information. Students are learning how to stay organized, manage their time, and take responsibility for their learning.

These may seem like small skills, but they are BIG skills for the future! AVID supports GGUSD goals by helping students become independent, prepared, and lifelong learners. We are excited to watch our Eagles build these important skills and soar toward their future!

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



Eisenhower's young scholars show off their AVID folders.

Enders *Elementary School*

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



Michelle Rushall
Principal

A Fall of Learning, Teamwork, and Inclusion at Enders

Enders Elementary is enjoying a busy fall filled with opportunities to learn, celebrate, and strengthen our school community.

This year, we are implementing AVID strategies schoolwide, beginning with a focus on organization and goal setting. Students are learning to manage their materials, establish meaningful goals, and identify steps toward achieving them. These habits help students take greater ownership of their learning and build a foundation for future success.



Six staff members took a pie in the face to celebrate students reaching their APEX Fun Run fundraising goals!

Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our students, families, and supporters, we once again met our APEX Fun Run fundraising goals! The celebration culminated in six staff members getting a pie in the face—a memorable reward for our students' hard work and our community's support.

We are also looking forward to Disability Awareness Day. All students and teachers will participate in an assembly and activities designed to deepen their understanding of the experiences of people with disabilities and the importance of accessibility, kindness, and inclusion. The day will conclude with a schoolwide pledge affirming our commitment to making Enders a welcoming place where everyone belongs.

Evans *Elementary School*

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



Cheryl De Los Reyes-Ruiz
Principal

Connecting with Community

Evans Elementary hosted a schoolwide BBQ for parents on September 4th, bringing families and staff together for an afternoon of fun, food, and community. With a western wear theme, families embraced the spirit of the event by showing up in cowboy hats, boots, and other western-inspired attire. The BBQ was well attended, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere as parents connected with one another and enjoyed time with the Evans Elementary community. It was a wonderful celebration of family, school spirit, and togetherness.



Evans hosted a BBQ catered by Food Services offering families a fun way to connect through food and community.

Excelsior *Elementary School*

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



Summer Hughes
Principal

A is for AVID

At Excelsior Elementary, AVID strategies begin on Day 1—even in Transitional Kindergarten! Our youngest learners build foundational academic habits early, setting a trajectory for lifelong success through structured, engaging activities.

From their very first steps into the classroom, TK students experience AVID's core WICOR strategies tailored specifically for early childhood development. Writing comes alive as students trace letters, draw stories, and label their ideas. Inquiry drives learning through curious questioning during read-alouds and hands-on exploration. Collaboration flourishes as children share materials and turn and talk with partners. Organization is introduced naturally by helping students manage color-coded supply bins, follow visual daily schedules, and practice consistent routines. Finally, reading strategies engage young minds through interactive big books and shared word-pattern recognition.

As an AVID Showcase School, Excelsior Elementary serves as a model of educational excellence. Educators from across the district visit our classrooms to observe these high-leverage practices in action, demonstrating that college and career readiness starts from the very first day of school!



Scholars in the making! Excelsior TK students proudly show off their work and AVID pride.

Faylane *Elementary School*

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



Mike Ingalls
Principal

Celebrating Cultures

Faylane families shared their desire to celebrate their cultural heritage as a part of our first year as a Community School in 2025-26. We are recognizing that celebrating diverse cultures within the community builds a sense of value and school connectedness. These celebrations provide meaningful opportunities to learn from one another, build relationships, and strengthen a sense of belonging. Last year and this, in celebration of the lunar new year (Tet), we invited Bolsa Grande's Lion Dancers to perform for our community (students, staff, parents). In honor of Hispanic Heritage, we experienced a vibrant Folklórico from the La Quinta High School dancers (also for both years!) We are working to integrate a similar approach with Goal 3 - Lifelong Success. At our upcoming Community Career Night on January 13, 2027, students and families will have opportunities to explore different careers and community connections, with many of our very own parents presenting their careers as options for student futures. Faylane continues to look forward to celebrating additional cultural events that reflect the diversity of our families. By creating opportunities to share traditions and for students to experience different cultures, we are building a more connected school community. At Faylane, every culture has a story worth celebrating, and every family has a place in our Falcon's nest!



La Quinta students brought Folklorico to life for Faylane's vibrant Hispanic Heritage celebration.

Fitz *Intermediate Language Academy*

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



Louie Gomez
Principal

SOARing into Another Great Year

Welcome back to another great year at Fitz Intermediate Language Academy. Our Back-to-School night was a huge success. It was great to see so many new and returning faces. We welcomed many visitors this night including some of our school board members, directors from our district office, and our Superintendent, Dr. Gabriela Mafi. This night was an opportunity for our students and families to meet our new staff members. We had seven new staff members join us this year, including our new Assistant Principal, Lindsey Skelton. Our wonderful PTO made this event extra special by inviting former students to write well wishes to our students. Thank you for making all of our Fitz Falcons excited for this new year. It was a wonderful way to celebrate this school year and thank you all for making this night so special. We are ready to SOAR!



Fitz Principal Louie Gomez welcomes Superintendent Gabriela Mafi and district leaders to Back to School Night to showcase all that Fitz has to offer students and families in the 2026-27 school year.

Garden Grove Adult Education

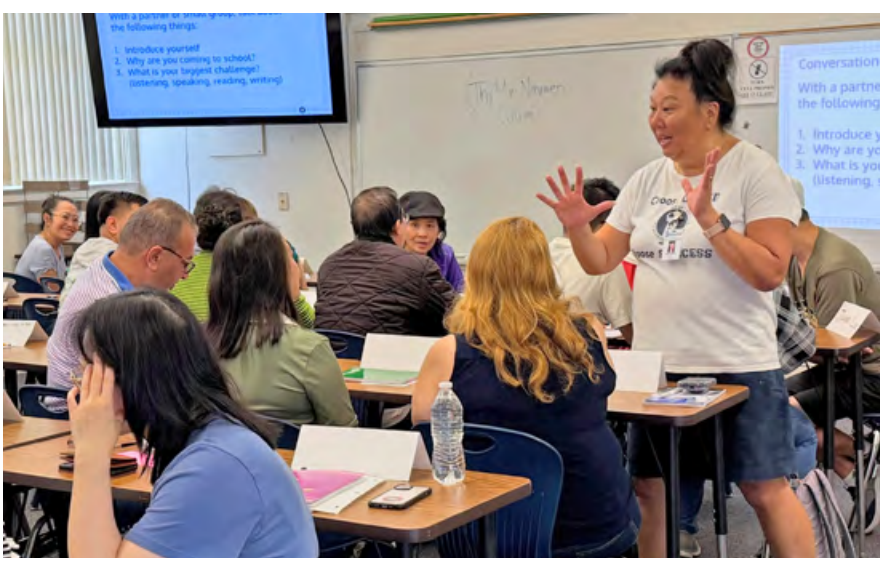
11262 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove CA 92843 • 714/663-6291 • www.ggae.org



Dr. Amy Avina
Principal

GGAE Sets New ESL Students Up for Success

Garden Grove Adult Education strives to support student learning (Goal 1), nurture a positive learning environment (Goal 2), and prepare adult students for lifelong success (Goal 3). This fall, students who are new to GGAE attend our 3-day Onboarding Class before starting their regular ESL (English as a Second Language) courses. Our Teachers on Special Assignment, Ray Hernandez and Alisa Takeuchi, support student success by reviewing the student handbook, explaining the importance of tracking your own data, and showing students how to log in to the various online programs they will use throughout the semester. Students meet their counselor, tour the campus, and explore the pathways offered at GGAE leading to lifelong success. Teachers report that this onboarding initiative serves as a vital bridge for incoming students, enabling them to transition into mixed-ability classrooms with the confidence and digital fluency required to succeed alongside their continuing peers.



Teacher On Special Assignment Alisa Takeuchi leads the GGAE Onboarding Class for new students to provide a supportive transition to their regular ESL classes.

Garden Grove *High School*

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



Mary Jane Hibbard
Principal

Frightening and Fun Fall Event

Garden Grove High School drama students are turning their creativity into an interactive Halloween experience with **The FEAR Factory,** a brand-new scare maze they have brought to life for the Fall 2026 season.

Join the students on October 28 or 29 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Donald R. Wash Memorial Auditorium. Guests can explore a themed animatronics factory, encounter fictional characters and try out interactive features—all created to make this student-produced attraction an exciting, family-friendly Halloween outing.

Come see the imagination and hard work of Garden Grove High School's drama students in action. The FEAR Factory is ready to welcome you—if you're brave enough to step inside!



Drama students showcase some of the costumes for their upcoming production during the school's Club Rush event.

Garden Park *Elementary School*

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



Jaemie Johnson
Principal

Community Spirit Shines at Garden Park Elementary

At Garden Park Elementary, the vibrant partnership between our dedicated families, talented students, and supportive staff is what truly makes our school special. We believe that a strong sense of belonging is key to a flourishing educational environment, and our parent community consistently rises to the challenge. Our commitment to building connections was beautifully showcased at our recent Homecoming Event. It was heartwarming to see so many families gathered, filling the room with laughter, dance moves, and playful competition at our game stations. Seeing families enjoying quality time together strengthens the bonds that support our entire school. Beyond this wonderful event, community engagement takes many forms at Garden Park, from a strong PTA to dedicated classroom volunteers and support for school events. We are grateful to every family who contributes their time, energy, and enthusiasm. Together, we are creating a nurturing and supportive village where every student can thrive.



Students took part in a giant game of checkers at Garden Park's recent Homecoming Event.

Gilbert *Elementary School*

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



George Martinez
Principal

Fostering an Inclusive and Welcoming Community

Gilbert Elementary is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where all students and families feel valued, respected, and represented. During Hispanic Heritage Month, Gilbert Elementary welcomed the Mariachi Band from Rancho Alamitos High School to perform for students, staff, and families. The performance provided an engaging opportunity for students to experience mariachi music while learning about and celebrating Latino culture and heritage.

Students enjoyed the music and were inspired by the high school students who proudly shared their talents and cultural traditions. Parents and families also enthusiastically participated and enjoyed the performance, strengthening the connection between the school, families, and the broader community.

Through events such as this, Gilbert Elementary demonstrates its commitment to celebrating diversity, building community partnerships, and creating inclusive experiences for students and families. The Hispanic Heritage Month celebration brought the community together through music and culture and reinforced the message that every student and family has a valued place at Gilbert Elementary.



Rancho Alamitos High School's Mariachi Band brought the music and celebration to Gilbert Elementary for a lively Hispanic Heritage Month event.

Hare *High School*

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



Lydia Machado
Principal

Spotlight on Student Leadership: Flor Valeria Amador Luna

As principal, I am thrilled to share an outstanding achievement that highlights the incredible student leadership within our school community. Flor Valeria Amador Luna has been selected to serve on the prestigious Orange County Youth Council (OCYC) for the 2026–2027 school year! Through her involvement in our school's Friday Night Live (FNL) chapter, Flor Valeria represents a vital youth voice advocating for countywide teen mental health promotion and substance use prevention. As part of this role, she participated in an exclusive panel discussion at Angel Stadium hosted by Angels Baseball and the Orange County Health Care Agency, focusing on mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Flor Valeria's dedication to championing student well-being and driving positive change exemplifies our school values by empowering students to lead with purpose both in and out of the classroom. Please join us in celebrating her achievements!



Flor Valeria Amador Luna represents our school as an Orange County Youth Council member during a youth mental health panel at Angel Stadium.

Hazard *Elementary School*

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



Sherry Sanborn
Principal

Celebrating Our Hazard Reclassified English Learners!

At our September Spirit Assembly, we proudly celebrated our English learners who achieved the important milestone of reclassifying as Fluent English Proficient! Students were honored in front of their peers, staff, and families and received certificates and medals recognizing their hard work, perseverance, and academic growth. Being multilingual is an incredible strength that enriches our school community and opens doors to future opportunities. This achievement brings each student one step closer to earning the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy. We are incredibly proud of these students for embodying District Goal 1B—Academic English—and demonstrating what is possible through dedication and determination. Congratulations to all our reclassified students!



Hazard Elementary's reclassified English learners proudly stand with Principal Sherry Sanborn after receiving certificates and medals recognizing their achievement in becoming Fluent English Proficient.

Heritage *Elementary Computer Science Immersion Academy*

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



Mark Vosper
Principal

Heritage Eagles S.O.A.R. with Community Support

Heritage Computer Science Academy is soaring into the new school year with strong community partnerships! We are committed to fostering a supportive environment where every student can achieve their full potential. This initiative aligns directly with our district's Goal 2: supporting our students with social and emotional awareness, caring for one another, and building a community of scholars who respect each other.

Through strategic donor connections, like our collaboration with volunteers, we are able to provide enriching opportunities for our students. This allows us to strengthen our positive school culture based on PBIS expectations. Our Heritage Eagles strive to do their best and S.O.A.R. each day. Our ultimate mission is to ensure every student feels safe, valued, respected, and ready to learn. We extend a heartfelt thank you to our partners for helping us realize this goal!



Through our partnership with Shoes that Fit, every Heritage scholar received a new pair of shoes to start the school year.

Hill *Elementary School*

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



Lien Thompson
Principal

Hill Elementary Gets Ready for The Jungle Book!

Recently, students in grades 3–6 at Hill Elementary enjoyed a special field trip to Segerstrom Center for the Arts to watch Sugar Skull! A Día de Muertos Musical Adventure.

The students watched with wide eyes and joyful excitement as the colorful musical came to life on stage. They were inspired by the music, storytelling, costumes, and talented performers.

The field trip was especially meaningful as Hill Elementary prepares for its own Disney musical production of The Jungle Book! Students are getting excited to bring this beloved story to life on our stage.

Our Hill Hounds will have the opportunity to showcase their talents through singing, dancing, acting, and teamwork. We are thrilled to see our students shine and share their hard work with our school community.

Hill Elementary is ready for an unforgettable adventure! We look forward to celebrating creativity, confidence, and talent together!



Hill students enjoyed a performance at Segerstrom Center as they get inspired for their own production of The Jungle Book.

Irvine *Intermediate School*

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



Holly Jefferson
Principal

Top Honors

We are thrilled and incredibly proud to announce that Irvine Intermediate has earned the prestigious 2026 California PBIS Platinum Award, the highest level of recognition for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports! This outstanding achievement reflects the dedication and partnership of our students, staff, and families in creating a safe, positive, and inclusive school environment. At the Hawk House, PBIS is about more than positive behavior, it is about building a strong sense of belonging and creating a community where every Hawk feels welcomed, valued, cared for, and loved. Through our SOAR program, students earn tickets for demonstrating our schoolwide expectations: Stay Safe, Offer Kindness, Act Responsibly and Respect Others. Students can redeem their SOAR tickets at our PBIS Store for exciting prizes and experiences. These efforts have helped create a thriving school culture where students feel connected, engaged, and motivated to succeed. This Platinum Award belongs to our entire Hawk House community. Congratulations, Hawks—Student Success is Our Superpower!



Irvine Intermediate is proud to have earned the prestigious 2026 California PBIS Platinum Award for fostering a positive, supportive school community.

Jordan *Intermediate School*

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



Stephanie Haddock
Principal

Building a Connected School Community

Jordan Intermediate School placed student well-being front and center recently during an energizing Club Rush held during lunchtime. Recognizing that joy and connection are essential to a thriving school culture, the campus transformed into a vibrant celebration of community. Students connected with one another and their teachers by playing fun games, enjoying delicious food, and chatting with student officers eager to share their passions. The event highlighted the rich variety of interests across the campus, offering every student a space to belong. Clubs on the campus include Vietnamese Student Association, Latinos Unidos, AVID Club, Culinary Club, and Book Club. This once-a-year opportunity allowed students to explore new ways to get involved. By empowering students to build lasting friendships and explore their interests, Jordan Intermediate continues to demonstrate its deep commitment to nurturing happy, connected, and well-rounded learners.



Students engage with peers and teachers over games, food and fun during the school's club rush event.

La Quinta *High School*

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



Denise Kirkman
Principal

Parent Social

La Quinta High School recently welcomed about 50 parents and guardians to our first LQ Parent Social! As part of our Community Schools efforts, our Community Liaisons personally reached out to freshmen families and invited them to join us for a morning of conversation, learning, and connection. The event was an overwhelming success and showcased the incredible foundation of LQ families who are committed to supporting our staff and students. Families enjoyed refreshments, connected with Principal Denise Kirkman, asked questions, and built relationships in a relaxed and welcoming setting. We were also excited to have GGUSD Director of Instructional Technology, Richard Dinh, demonstrate how parents can use Google Classroom and AERIES to stay connected to their students' learning and academic progress. The Parent Social strengthened our partnership with families and reinforced our commitment to La Quinta High School as a true Community School. Our strong LQ family community helps create an inclusive and welcoming culture where every scholar feels valued, supported, and empowered to reach their academic potential. Together, we foster healthy social-emotional development, strengthen home-school connections, and prepare students for lifelong success. We are grateful for our LQ families!



About 50 parents and guardians joined La Quinta High School's first Parent Social to get to know school leaders, connect with fellow families and learn new ways to support their students.

Lake *Intermediate School*

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



Allie Bak
Principal

Strong Family Partnerships Drive Early Success at Lake

Lake kicked off the 2026–2027 school year with great momentum, driven by families eager to collaborate toward student success in Goals 1, 2, and 3. Participation reached record highs early on, with over 85% family attendance at Dragon Day and more than 300 community members gathering for Back to School Night. To build on this foundation and as part of its Community Schools initiatives, Lake administration hosted its first Pastries with the Principal on September 3rd. During the interactive morning session, parents connected over coffee while exploring educational technology tools used in classroom instruction. Attendees also received hands-on walkthroughs of parent portals designed to track academic progress in real time and gain a stronger understanding of GGUSD's Secondary Grading Policy and the Power of Zero. By actively bridging classroom learning with home involvement, Lake continues to foster an empowered, informed school community where every family plays a pivotal role in student achievement. This is one of the many reasons Lake continues to receive recognition as a PBIS Platinum School, a No Place for Hate School, A Schools to Watch, Honor Roll, and US News and World Report Best Middle School.



Lake Intermediate had record family attendance at its Dragon Day event.

Lawrence *Elementary School*

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



Julie Kawai
Principal

Celebrating a Strong Start at Lawrence Elementary

We are excited to celebrate a tremendous accomplishment at Lawrence Elementary—earning PBIS Platinum recognition! This achievement reflects our schoolwide commitment to creating a positive, safe, and supportive environment where every student can thrive. PBIS, or Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, focuses on teaching, recognizing, and reinforcing positive behaviors and character. Our PBIS Platinum recognition is a result of the dedication and hard work of our students, staff, and family partnership.

We are also celebrating a strong start to the 2026–27 school year! We began by reviewing routines, expectations, and character traits with our students. Our PBIS character traits remind us that Lawrence Roadrunners are respectful, safe, and kind. Our teachers helped bring these expectations to life through rotations in important areas around campus. Students practiced and reviewed key rules so everyone understands how we learn, work, and care for one another at Lawrence.



Lawrence staff members welcomed students back for the 2026-27 school year.

Los Amigos *High School*

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



Todd Nirk
Principal

Supporting the Whole Family

Los Amigos High School was proud to host our annual Back-to-School Resource Health Fair on September 2, bringing families together for an evening of valuable services and community support. In partnership with the Orange County Social Services Agency, the event provided medical and dental checks, Medi-Cal and CalFresh enrollment assistance, fresh produce, diapers, backpacks, toys, and other essential resources. The health fair was another great example of Los Amigos and GGUSD working alongside community partners to ensure students and families felt supported, cared for, and ready for a successful school year.



Los Amigos High School students volunteered at the Back-to-School Resource Health Fair which provided dozens of resources to ensure families felt well cared for.

Mark Twain *Special Education Center and Adult Transition Program*

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



Joell Sparks
Principal

Literacy Library

At Mark Twain, our Literacy Library serves students from the elementary level through our Adult Transition Program (ATP), providing them with access to literature tailored to their interests while building fundamental literacy skills. Designed for accessibility, the library incorporates sensory tools and communication supports so that every student can fully engage. A standout feature of our program is peer mentorship: several ATP students partner with younger learners, providing support to help them access texts and engage with stories. Students then bridge their reading to real-world experiences when they are on campus and in the community. Through this comprehensive approach, our students are working on all three of our district strategic goals by gaining academic skills (Goal 1), developing personal skills (Goal 2), and building a foundation for lifelong success (Goal 3). We are immensely proud of our library and thrilled to see our students thrive as engaged readers.



Mark Twain's Literacy Library is packed full of sensory tools to support student growth.

Marshall *Elementary School*

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



Sarah Van Dam
Principal

A Sweet Start to Great Attendance

Marshall Elementary School recently brought its community together for a delicious Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast! Families gathered on campus to enjoy a warm, freshly prepared breakfast cooked on-site by GGUSD's superb Food Services team, featuring fluffy pancakes topped with berries and whipped cream, served alongside savory sausage..

The event proved to be a fantastic success in more ways than one. In celebration of September's Attendance Awareness Month, Marshall students demonstrated remarkable school spirit and commitment—recording near-perfect attendance with only one student absent across the entire school that day!

By combining community engagement with a focus on daily attendance, Marshall Elementary kicked off the school year on a supportive and high-achieving note. Congratulations to our dedicated students, families, and staff for making the morning such a resounding success!



Marshall Elementary School families gather together in a full cafeteria to enjoy a freshly prepared pancake and sausage breakfast during Attendance Awareness Month.

McGarvin *Intermediate School*

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



Bill Gates
Principal

Back-to-Back National Pentathlon Champions!

McGarvin Intermediate School has done it again! For the second year in a row, McGarvin's Academic Pentathlon teams are National Champions, making this an extraordinary milestone for our students and school community. At the 2026 National Championships, our 7th-grade team earned 1st place overall while our 8th-grade team achieved an incredible 2nd place in the nation. Together, our students made history by bringing home an impressive 54 individual medals—including 16 gold, 20 silvers, and 18 bronzes! Academic Pentathlon challenges students to develop critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and academic confidence while encouraging a love of learning. After two consecutive years of national success, our Pentathlon program is gearing up for another exciting season this fall. Returning champions and new members will come together to form a new team, take on new challenges, and continue McGarvin's tradition of excellence.



McGarvin's Academic Pentathlon teams were named National Champions in 2026 for the second year in a row.

Mitchell *Elementary School*

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



Carrie Bostick
Principal

Fostering a Love for Reading

Reading is a major focus at Mitchell Elementary this year as we work to build strong readers who develop a lifelong love of books and learning. One special place where that love of reading comes to life is our school library. In addition to regularly scheduled library visits, the library is open during recess, giving students the option to step away from the busy playground, find a comfortable spot, and relax with a good book. Our library also features a special collection called The Peace Library. This thoughtfully selected section includes books that help students explore important topics such as social-emotional regulation, empathy, inclusion, kindness, and respect for diversity. Through engaging stories, students can see different perspectives, better understand their own emotions, and learn positive ways to connect with others. Whether students are discovering a new favorite book or enjoying a peaceful reading break, our library is helping Mitchell Eagles grow as both readers and people.



Mitchell Eagles enjoy a quiet moment with a good book in our school library.

Monroe *Elementary Language Academy*

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



César Loya
Principal

Monroe's Ballet Folklorico Celebrates Latino Heritage Month with Vibrant Performances

In a captivating display of culture and tradition, Monroe's Ballet Folklorico "Raíces de Monroe" recently dazzled audiences to celebrate Latino Heritage Month. Dressed in vibrant traditional attire, the dancers twirled across the blacktop, bringing rich heritage and energy to the entire Monroe community.

The celebration extended beyond Monroe's campus as the dedicated performers traveled to Crosby Elementary and Marshall Elementary. Bringing lively choreography, music, and storytelling to neighboring schools, the group inspired younger students and shared the joy of folklorico dancing across the district.

Currently boasting approximately 70 talented students, Monroe's folklorico program continues to grow and thrive. Through hours of practice and passion, these young dancers not only showcase artistic excellence but also foster community pride and cultural appreciation. Congratulations to "Raíces de Monroe" on another unforgettable series of performances!



Monroe's Ballet Folklorico group celebrates Latino Heritage Month with vibrant performances at several school campuses.

Morningside *Elementary School*

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



Toby Vares
Principal

Morningside Elementary Celebrates PBIS Bronze Recognition

As principal, I am thrilled to enter my second year at Morningside. Together, we have built a strong foundation, and I look forward to continuing to grow and strengthen our community throughout the school year.

Morningside Elementary is proud to announce our recognition as a PBIS Bronze Medal recipient! This achievement highlights our commitment to fostering a positive learning environment. Thanks to our students, staff, and families, we continue to make incredible progress practicing our core values: being safe, respectful, and responsible.

To celebrate our students' hard work, keep an eye out for the launch of our new Mustang Market, where students can redeem their earned "Mighty Mustangs" for exciting rewards and experiences.

We are also always looking for volunteers to join our PTA and support our upcoming activities. Plus, be sure to check our website or ParentSquare regularly for important updates and dates.

Go Mighty Mustangs!



Two TK students enjoy "Lunch with the Principal" after spinning the PBIS wheel at our Friday Flag Deck.

Murdy *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Michele Luong
Principal

A Place to Play

We are excited to officially launch the HERDquarters, a new indoor recess space created with our students in mind! As a Community School, we believe our students should have a voice in shaping their school experience. The HERDquarters is one part of our ongoing school initiative to ensure student voices are heard, valued, and turned into action. This special space gives students an additional place to connect with friends, play board games, explore robotics, create using 3-D pens, and enjoy recess in a welcoming and comfortable environment. The idea for the HERDquarters came directly from student feedback about what would make recess more enjoyable and inclusive. We listened, collaborated, and made it happen! This is more than just a new space. It represents our commitment to belonging, connection, and making sure every Mustang knows that their voice matters.



Students enjoy coding and robotics during the school's indoor recess option.

Newhope *Elementary School*

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



Eva Matthews
Principal

Newhope Kicks Off 2026 with Amazing Possibilities

What a wonderful start to the school year! Back to School Night was a great opportunity to connect with families and share the exciting learning experiences planned for this school year. A special shout-out to our amazing PTO, who work tirelessly to provide memorable experiences for our Tigers and their families. We appreciate all they do to make our school community stronger! Our 6th graders have the amazing opportunity to participate in Our College and Career Mentorship Program (CCMP). Each sixth grader will have the time to explore future careers, learn about different pathways, and begin connecting their interests to future goals. Many of our CCMP mentors also attended Newhope Elementary, now they provide our students with experiences that encourage them to dream big and explore what is possible! To help set the tone for our CCMP sessions, our very own superintendent, Dr. Mafi recently visited our sixth graders to inspire them to think about their futures and begin exploring what they might want to be or do when they grow up. We look forward to a fantastic school year filled with learning, growth, and new opportunities for all our Tigers.



PTO welcomed engaged with families and showcased all they do to support the school during Newhope's Back to School Night.

Northcutt *Elementary School*

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



Brian Ladd
Principal

Northcutt Students Learn Positive Expectations Through PBIS Rotations

At Northcutt Elementary School, students participate in PBIS Rotations to learn and reinforce the school's core expectations: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe. During these rotations, students visit different areas of campus to see what these expectations look like in real-life settings.

At the Playground PBIS Expectations station, students learn how to use equipment safely, include others in play, resolve conflicts respectfully, and make responsible choices during recess. Through discussions and hands-on activities, students gain skills that promote positive interactions and a safe learning environment.

These lessons support GGUSD Goal 2: Personal Success, Climate, and Culture by fostering strong character, positive relationships, and a welcoming school community where all students can learn, grow, and thrive.



Making recess safe, welcoming and fun starts with learning our playground expectations.

Pacifica *High School*

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



Stephanie Bartlett
Principal

Pacifica High School Earns California PBIS Bronze Recognition

Pacifica High School is proud to be recognized with California PBIS Bronze status, celebrating the intentional work of our staff and students to build a positive, consistent, and supportive school environment where every Mariner can thrive.

At Pacifica, that work is taking shape through our Anchor Points system, which provides a common framework for recognizing, reinforcing, and celebrating the behaviors and habits we want our Mariners to demonstrate every day. One of the strengths of Pacifica's PBIS work is that it is not a stand-alone program or a single event. The school has been developing the infrastructure necessary to make PBIS part of the everyday student experience. Most importantly, students have a voice in the work. Pacifica has developed an Anchor Crew and Anchor Points Student Committee, creating opportunities for students to help shape how PBIS is experienced by their peers.

Pacifica is incredibly proud of earning Bronze recognition, but the school also views it as an important step in a larger journey. The Bronze designation validates the foundation built and provides momentum for the work ahead. We are proud of our staff for embracing this work, proud of our students for helping shape it, and proud of the impact it is having on the Mariner experience. At Pacifica, PBIS is ultimately about creating a campus where expectations are clear, positive choices are recognized, students feel connected, and every Mariner has the opportunity to succeed.



Pacifica student leaders play an active role in shaping the school's PBIS infrastructure which fosters a positive school environment that helps all students succeed.

Paine *Elementary School*

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



Charise Santana
Principal

Family Game Night

Family Game Night at Thomas Paine Elementary was a wonderful evening of fun, laughter, and connection! Hosted by our amazing PTO, the event brought families together to enjoy games, activities, and quality time with one another. This event supports Garden Grove Unified School District's Goal 2: well-being by creating opportunities to strengthen relationships, foster a sense of belonging, and build a positive school climate and culture. We are grateful to our PTO, staff, and families for creating an evening that celebrated connection, belonging, and wellbeing. Together, we continue to build a school community where every student and family feels welcomed, valued, and connected.



Paine Elementary families enjoyed connecting with other families in the school community during a fun Family Game Night.

Palomino *Elementary School*

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



Rene Cantoran
Principal

Hispanic Heritage Assembly

At Palomino Elementary School, creating a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for every student and family is at the heart of everything we do. This commitment was on full display as our school community came together for a Hispanic Heritage Assembly. The event kicked off with a special performance led by student leaders from Latinos Unidos. They presented an engaging skit centered on two grandchildren eager to learn more about their heritage. Through a heartfelt dialogue with their grandmother, the students and audience learned that culture isn't something far away—it is all around us every day in our language, food, traditions, and music. Following the skit, students and families were treated to a captivating Ballet Folklórico performance. Dancers brought traditional heritage to life with energetic movement, authentic music, and colorful costumes. The celebration extended beyond the assembly stage and into lunchtime! Thanks again to our PTO, students had the opportunity to try delicious, traditional aguas frescas during lunch, giving everyone a refreshing taste of Hispanic culture to end the special day.



Students in the school's Latinos Unidos Club engaged the audience with a performance of "La Raspa."

Parkview *Elementary School*

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



Kawehi Holomalia-Gonzalez
Principal

Supporting the Whole Child

Parkview Elementary is proud to announce it has earned California PBIS Gold Recognition for excellence in creating a positive, supportive school culture. This achievement highlights Parkview's dedication to Garden Grove Unified School District's strategic goals, particularly Goal 2: Personal Skills, which focuses on developing students' character, social-emotional well-being, and positive behavior. Across campus every day, all Parkview staff proudly award BARK Bucks to students who exemplify core values: Be Responsible, Act Safely, Respect Others, and Keep It Up! Students are thrilled for the upcoming launch of the BARK Store, where they can spend their hard-earned BARK Bucks on fun rewards, school supplies, and special privileges. This interactive incentive reinforces daily expectations and empowers students to take ownership of their actions. By fostering a safe, respectful environment, Parkview continues to support the whole child and help every student thrive academically and socially.



Students love cashing in their Bark Bucks for fun prizes.

Patton *Elementary School*

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



Kai Chang
Principal

Welcome Back to an Inspired New School Year at Patton Elementary!

As we launch into the 2026–2027 school year, our Patton Elementary campus is buzzing with energy, curiosity, and renewed purpose. This year, our focus centers on fostering a love for hands-on learning and strong community connections. We are thrilled to introduce our new interactive STEM learning lab, where Patton scholars collaborate on problem-solving projects that bring science and math concepts to life. Alongside our rigorous academic core, our expanded visual and performing arts activities offer every child creative outlets to shine. Above all, our dedicated Patton teachers and staff are committed to nurturing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where every scholar feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential. We look forward to partnering with our wonderful families for a milestone year of growth, achievement, and discovery!



Patton scholars put their problem-solving skills to work during a collaborative engineering activity in our new STEM lab.

Peters *Elementary School (K-3)*

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



Jean Camp
Principal

Helping Hands

Starting a new school year can bring big feelings, especially for our youngest learners. Thankfully, our wonderful 3rd grade ambassadors are there each morning with smiles, kindness, and helping hands to welcome TK and kindergarten students and walk them to class.

This special partnership helps our littlest students feel safe, confident, and ready to learn, while giving our 3rd graders a meaningful opportunity to practice leadership, compassion, and responsibility.

These everyday acts of kindness beautifully support GGUSD Goal 2: Personal Skills—Motivation, Well-Being, and Climate & Culture, helping create a school community where every student feels welcomed, connected, and valued.

It's a beautiful reminder that a little kindness can make a big difference—and that we're never too young to make someone feel at home.



Third grade ambassadors are ready to welcome TK students to school to walk them to class.

Peters *Elementary School (4-6)*

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



Sean Dishong
Principal

Panther Pride Shines Bright

At Peters 4-6 Elementary, our Panther pride shines brightest when we come together to honor and celebrate the rich diversity of our community. This fall, we were thrilled to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month with a vibrant, all-school outdoor assembly.

We were honored to welcome the talented Rancho Alamitos High School Mariachi Band, whose dynamic performance filled our campus with music, energy, and joy. It was a wonderful sight to see our students, staff, and families—many dressed in beautiful traditional attire—enjoying the festivities together as one community.

Our celebration extends far beyond the assembly. Throughout the month, students are diving deep into the rich histories, traditions, and contributions of Hispanic cultures through engaging weekly lessons. Our Panthers are channeling their creativity by studying famous Hispanic artists and crafting unique artwork inspired by their iconic styles. Additionally, our Student Council members are taking the lead each week by sharing inspiring cultural facts and historical highlights during morning announcements, educating and empowering their peers every day.

We are so proud of our students for embracing these opportunities to learn, reflect, and celebrate. Thank you to our incredible staff, families, and community partners for making this month such a meaningful and memorable experience for our Panthers!



Panther students pose with the Rancho Alamitos High School Mariachi Band after their performance to kick off our Hispanic Heritage Month festivities.

Post *Elementary School*

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



Jamie Shippee
Principal

Post Panthers Show Paws

The 2026-2027 school year is in full swing at Post Elementary, and our Panthers are kicking off an exciting new school year filled with academic focus, annual traditions, and learning behavioral expectations.

This fall, our primary focus is expanding PBIS at Post. The staff is launching a PAWS panther student store for scholars to spend their cub cash. Students will earn cub cash for showing a positive attitude, acting responsibly, working hard and showing respect.

Beyond the classroom, panthers and parents continue to show school spirit. From celebrating student accomplishments during our weekly Friday Flag assemblies to building excitement for our community events like the annual pumpkin decorating contest, Halloween parade, and trunk or treat, our school community is coming together to create lasting memories.

We look forward to partnering with our families to make this school year our best one yet.



Post scholars earn Cub Cash when demonstrating schoolwide expectations like hard work, a positive attitude and respect.

Ralston *Intermediate School*

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



Feather Hocking
Principal

Stronger Together: Expanding Parent Partnership at Ralston

Ralston Intermediate is deepening family engagement this year by building strong home-to-school connections, starting with creating opportunities where every family feels informed, supported, and valued. An example of this commitment was our updated SOAR orientation for incoming 7th graders, where we added a parent component that allowed parents the opportunity to get their questions answered and have the dedicated time to learn what they needed to help their child transition to middle school. Over 100 Ralston families attended, establishing a genuine sense of belonging on campus from day one. As our parent connectedness grows, so do our family volunteers. We are excited to have our parents helping with our weekly Pride Store, Friday Fest activities, our school library, and other campus events. The growth will continue as we start to offer parent workshops to strengthen families and our school and home connections.



Ralston is proud to have strong family engagement as part of its school culture and community.

Rancho Alamitos *High School*

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



Curtis Bruno
Principal

Rancho VAQ Rack Now Open!

Rancho Alamitos High School and our Community School Teacher Coach, Ms. Lockhart, are excited to announce that our Community Schools Vaq Rack is officially open! The Vaq Rack provides students with a welcoming, store-like environment where they can access clothing, school supplies, pantry items, hygiene products, and other essential items, all free of charge.

More than just a resource for students, the Vaq Rack also provides opportunities for students to give back to their school community. Students help operate and support the store while developing valuable life skills, including responsibility, organization, communication, and customer service.

The Vaq Rack reflects the spirit of Rancho Alamitos, a community committed to supporting one another and ensuring our students and families have the resources they need. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this resource possible and proud to see our students supporting their fellow Vaqueros.



Families get the resources they need through the school's Vaq Rack.

Riverdale *Tech Academy*

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



Jason Shabet
Principal

A Great Year Ahead

Riverdale Elementary is excited to start the new school year with several positive developments. Our students managed to surpass our Pre-Covid SBAC scores last school year. This is quite an accomplishment considering the significant gains that were made prior to the pandemic and all of the obstacles that were placed in front of us along the way. This growth also led to Riverdale being named a US News and World Report Best Elementary School for the second year in a row. This is truly a testament to the hard work of teachers, students, and the parents of our school! To start this school year, our PAL (Peer Assistance League) students are looking to take a larger leadership role at the school. Guided by our teachers, they are bringing fun activities like a four-square tournament as well as charitable contributions like canned food drives during the holiday season. We are proud of all our students have and will continue to accomplish in the year ahead.



Riverdale PAL students are fostering a fun, positive environment on campus.

Russell *Elementary Language Academy*

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



Carol Haase
Principal

Celebrating Student Success

The first Friday of each month is our Spirit Assembly, where we celebrate and recognize our students through our PBIS initiatives. Students are honored based on our RAMS values: Respectful, Acting Mindfully, Modeling Responsibility, and Solving Problems. Our assemblies also highlight the multiculturalism of our dual immersion program through student performances. We also celebrate students who participate in University Thursday by raffling off college wear to those who take intentional notes during our morning announcements, which highlight a different university each month. Our first Spirit Assembly on September 4 was especially meaningful as we celebrated El Grito in honor of Mexican Independence Day—a special Russell tradition started by our beloved teacher, Maestra Gil, who passed away one year ago. As we continued her tradition, we also honored her legacy by dedicating a bench and tree outside her former classroom, creating a space that reflects her love for students, learning, leadership, and community.



Sunshine, story time, and a spot in the grass! Russell students enjoyed a good book with their teacher on a beautify day outside.

Santiago *High School*

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



Nick Clark
Principal

A California Distinguished School

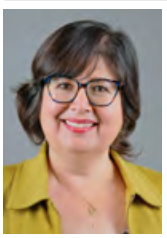
As the new principal of Santiago High School, I am so excited to celebrate our school being named a California Distinguished School for the first time ever! This award is given by the California State Board of Education to only the top schools statewide and recognizes the incredible growth happening in our classrooms and our campus. Santiago continues to make growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics test scores while closing the achievement gap for all students (GGUSD Goal 1). In addition to our high attendance rate, students share they feel safe and supported at SHS (GGUSD Goal 2), and our graduation rate continues to increase with an impressive number of students meeting the requirements to enter a CSU or UC school upon graduation (GGUSD Goal 3). I am proud to share this recognition with our community, and I know we will continue to be successful, civic minded, critical thinkers!



Santiago High School scholars celebrate being named a 2026 California Distinguished School.

Simmons *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Tanya De Leon
Principal

Simmons Dolphins are Making Waves

Simmons Elementary is proud to celebrate the second year of our Spanish dual immersion program! Our school welcomed our families with a variety of community events such as our "Picnic with a Loved One," annual pancake breakfast and new PTO Coffee Chats.

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

Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that Simmons is the recipient of the "Give and Grow" Grant that will beautify our campus with dolphin-themed murals this October. Our students also benefit from an Orff trained music teacher who provides experiential, hands on music instruction for TK-6 Grade. Our Simmons Dolphins are making waves with our Spanish dual language immersion and hands-on music enrichment!



Simmons Dual Immersion students enjoy painting at recess.

Skylark *Preschool*

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



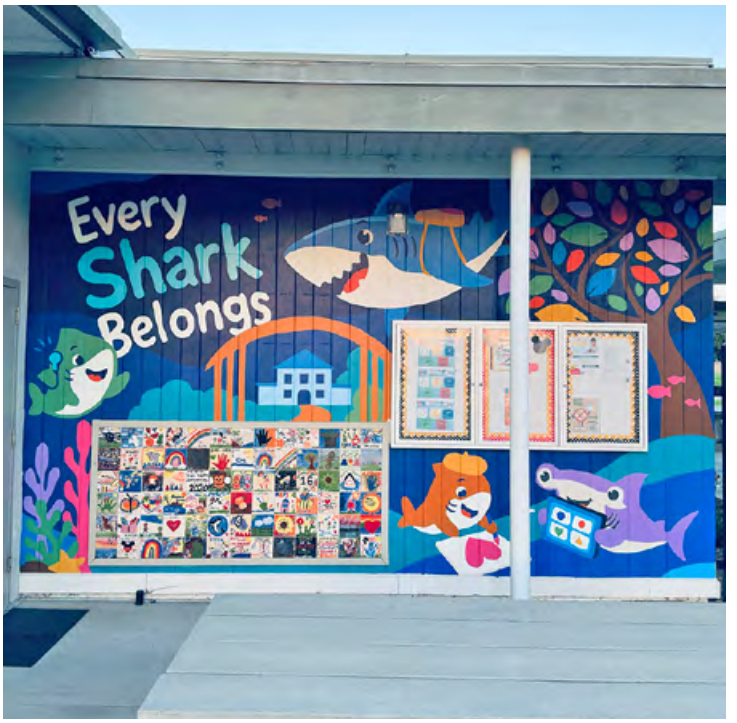
Esther Atherton
Principal

A Preschool Where Every Child Belongs

This year, Skylark Preschool is excited to welcome our students and families with a brand-new mural that represents what our school community stands for: every child is seen, valued, and celebrated. The mural reflects the inclusive spirit of our State Preschool, Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC), and Fee-Based Preschool programs. At Skylark, we are also proud to have the Boys & Girls Club as a community partner, supporting our students and families and helping strengthen our school community.

This special vision came to life through the generosity of our families and community, including fundraisers and donations. More than a mural, it is a lasting reminder that every child has a place to learn, grow, and shine. Skylark is proud to foster a community where every child belongs, and every learner is given the opportunity to excel and reach their full potential.

At Skylark Preschool, every child belongs, every child matters, and every child has a place to shine.



Skylark's new mural is a colorful reminder that every child belongs.

Stanford *Elementary School*

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



Brian Ball
Principal

Pastries, Lunches, and Bingo Night at Stanford!

The 2026–27 school year at Stanford Elementary School is off to a truly wonderful start! Our dedicated Stanford Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsored a fantastic lineup of early-season events to bring families onto our campus and foster a warm, welcoming climate (Goal 2). We kicked off on August 21st with Pastries with the Principal, where many parents connected with Principal Ball and learned about our school goals for this year over delicious sweet treats. September brought even more Stanford community fun! On September 11th, families joined their students on campus for a lively Lunch with Loved Ones. To wrap up the month, our first family engagement night—Family Bingo Night—was held on September 24th. It was a memorable, fun-filled evening enjoyed by everyone who attended. A huge thank you to our incredible PTO volunteers, dedicated staff, and Stanford families for starting our school year on such a high note!



Stanford families build connection and community through school events like Lunch with Loved Ones.

Stanley *Elementary School*

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



Angie Balius
Principal

The Sweet Sounds of Learning at Stanley

Stanley's instrumental music program plays an important role in supporting students' academic, social, and emotional development. Learning to play an instrument strengthens skills such as concentration, memory, and problem-solving while positively supporting learning across all subject areas. Music also provides students with an opportunity to practice setting goals, work through challenges, and experiencing the pride that comes from improvement and achievement. Our instrumental music program helps students develop meaningful connections to their school community. Playing in an ensemble teaches students to listen to one another and contribute to a shared goal. For many students, music becomes a place where they feel successful. Performances and concerts also create opportunities for families and the school community to celebrate student accomplishments together. We are incredibly proud of our young musicians as they find their voice, build connections, and discover the great things they can accomplish together. We are proud to give our students the opportunity to learn and grow through the power of music.



Stanley students develop skill, confidence and connecting through the school's instrumental music program.

Sunnyside *Elementary School*

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



Marcie Griffith
Principal

Sunnyside Starts the Year SHINING

At Sunnyside Elementary, we are starting the 2026–27 school year with a focus on kindness, belonging, and positive choices. Our students are practicing what it means to SHINE: show Scholarly Habits, Have Respect, Impress with Integrity, Never Give Up, and Exceed Expectations.

Students who demonstrate these values can earn Sunny Money to spend at our Sunny Store, where their positive choices are celebrated. The store is one of the ways our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program helps make Sunnyside a welcoming place to learn.

We're proud to share that Sunnyside has earned PBIS Platinum Recognition for the fourth year in a row. This honor reflects the care and commitment of our students, staff, and families. Here's to another year of shining together!



Sunnsyide scholars show off their sunny money earned for making positive choices and demonstrating scholarly habits and respect.

Violette *Elementary School*

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



Olivia Hufnagel
Principal

Violette Vikings Are Learning, Leading, and Achieving!

At Violette, every Viking is on a journey to learn, lead, and achieve. As a proud Community School, we know that when we journey together, our Vikings go farther. This year, our scholars will have countless opportunities to imagine, design, create, and shine. Students will take center stage through Aladdin Kids, while Child Creativity Lab and Jr. Achievement will bring innovative experiences into every classroom. Through our AVID focus, students develop agency, take ownership of their learning, and grow as confident, capable learners. We are also cultivating a love of reading! Book Blast launches this month and together with our Scholastic Book Fair, our scholars will build on their home libraries. Our commitment to respectful, responsible, and scholarly behavior has earned Violette School Platinum PBIS recognition. With a focus on belonging, discovering purpose, and celebrating diversity, our Vikings know they are valued and on a path to lifelong success!



Violette scholars are excited to expand their personal libraries through the school's Book Bash initiative.

Virtual Learning Academy

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



Eric Hansen
Principal

Taking Center Stage

From Chicago to London, VLA senior Sophia Silva spent her summer pursuing her passion for ballet and taking her training to exciting new heights!

She spent three weeks at the Advanced Summer Intensive at the Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, strengthening her technique and artistry while learning from an exceptional faculty. Sophia then traveled to London for four weeks to attend the prestigious Royal Ballet Upper School Summer Intensive, where she trained daily alongside talented dancers from around the world.

These experiences provided valuable opportunities for growth, connection, and lasting friendships within the dance community.

Currently a pre-professional student at the American Ballet Theatre William J. Gillespie School at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Sophia dreams of becoming a professional ballerina. She is grateful for the flexibility VLA provides as she continues pursuing her dreams.

We are proud of you, Sophia. Keep soaring!



With VLA's flexibility supporting her journey, Sophia is taking exciting steps toward her dream of becoming a professional ballerina!

Wakeham *Elementary School*

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



Sarah Mershon
Principal

Strengthening Students' Personal Skills

Wakeham is where learning goes far beyond books! Under GGUSD's Goal 2: Personal Skills, Wakeham Elementary focuses on helping every student grow inside and out. First, we support motivation and well-being. Through Wakeham's ASPIRE program, students receive individual and small-group support to solve problems and tackle challenges. Our counseling team also delivers engaging classroom lessons and hosts fun Recess Retreats as alternate recess activities. Each month, we focus on a character trait to boost motivation and participation so students own their behavior and see the impact of their positive choices. Second, we build a positive school climate. Wakeham treats every student like family and celebrates our vibrant community through special cultural events. Our PBIS program sets the foundation of positive school culture, which we build upon with activities, supports, and assemblies that show students how everyone contributes to a safe and welcoming school. For example, local high schoolers joined a few of Wakeham's own students to perform a lively Ballet Folklórico assembly! When students feel happy, safe, and cared for, they are ready to shine!



Students at Wakeham Elementary School celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a lively assembly featuring a wonderful Ballet Folklórico performance.

Walton *Intermediate School*

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



Marci Loo
Principal

Walton Intermediate Parent Pack

We are excited to announce the launch of the Walton Intermediate Parent Pack, an opportunity for parents and caregivers to support student success through their time, talents, or donations. The Parent Pack has already gotten off to a wonderful start! Parent volunteers have stepped in as greeters, welcoming students and families, and our copy team volunteers are helping to support teachers once a week. Many other parents have also expressed interest in helping decorate, assist with special projects, or lend a hand during specific school events. The Parent Pack is designed to offer flexible ways for families to get involved—whether parents can volunteer regularly, help occasionally, share a special skill, or make a donation. Thank you to all of our Walton families who have already stepped up to support our students. Every contribution makes a difference!



Walton's Parent Pack provide students with a warm welcome to school.

Warren *Elementary School*

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



Kyle Benham
Principal

A Strong Start to the Year

We are so excited about the wonderful start to the school year at Warren Elementary! Our classrooms are filled with learning, laughter, and positive energy. Thank you to our students, staff, and families for helping make Warren such a welcoming and supportive community.

Our Wildcats are off to an amazing start… building friendships, learning routines, developing new skills, and bringing enthusiasm and curiosity to school each day!

We are also proud to celebrate Warren Elementary for earning Gold Recognition through the statewide PBIS Recognition Program! This achievement reflects our commitment to helping students Prepare, Respect, Give Effort, and Problem Solve while creating a positive environment where everyone can learn and grow.

A special thank you to our incredible Warren PTA for their continued support! This year, PTA provided Warren T-shirts for every TK student, along with special shirts for Student Council members and sixth graders.

There is even more excitement ahead! Our Fall Fundraiser begins in October, and our Fall Festival is October 29! Watch ParentSquare for details.

Thank you for making Warren such a special place. Go Wildcats!



Students at Warren Elementary are all smiles as they start the new 2026-27 school year.

Woodbury *Elementary School*

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



Liz Milliman
Principal

Woodbury Elementary Focuses on Wellness, Climate, and Community

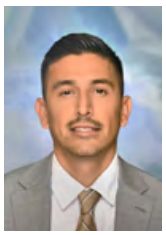
At Woodbury Elementary, we are continuing to prioritize the socio-emotional well-being of our students while building a positive school climate and culture where everyone feels connected, supported, and valued. Students participated in a meaningful Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) lesson in our Wellness Room, led by our school social worker. The lesson provided students with an opportunity to develop important skills for managing emotions, building relationships, and making positive choices. Our commitment to student well-being extends beyond the classroom and into our school community. We were thrilled to welcome families onto campus for a wonderful pancake breakfast! The event provided a special opportunity for students, families, and staff to connect, share a meal, and celebrate the strong sense of community that makes Woodbury Elementary such a special place. Woodbury Elementary is proud to support and advance our district goals by nurturing the whole child and strengthening the relationships that help our students thrive!



Families came together for a delicious and nutritious Pancake Breakfast provided by GGUSD's Food Services Department.

Zeyen *Elementary School*

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



Gabriel Gonzalez
Principal

Partnering with PTO

At Zeyen Elementary School, our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) plays a vital role in enriching our vibrant school community and supporting our students and staff. This school year is already off to a fantastic start thanks to the dedicated efforts of our PTO leadership and volunteers. Their hard work helps organize highly anticipated fundraisers like our Kona Ice visits and our popular Scholastic Book Fair, both of which bring immense joy to our campus while raising essential funds for classroom resources, field trips, and school-wide programs. Beyond financial support, the PTO fosters a strong sense of unity and collaboration between families and educators. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to this incredible parent group whose unwavering support, enthusiasm, and tireless commitment make a profound, lasting impact on the success and well-being of every student at Zeyen Elementary!



Zeyen's PTO brings many awesome opportunities to students including a variety of sweet treats.

OCDE • *From Page 11*



Dr. Stefan Bean
Superintendent
Orange County
Dept. of Education

professional learning, advance literacy, support special education and sustain important work through community schools and expanded learning programs. Our responsibility is to use these opportunities wisely, thoughtfully and with a clear focus on results.

At OCDE, our work takes two forms: We support Orange County's 28 school districts through fiscal oversight, technical assistance, instructional leadership and specialized services, and we directly serve the county's most vulnerable students through our own schools and programs. To bolster both responsibilities, we are aligning our organization around two complementary pillars: educational excellence and operational excellence.

Educational excellence reflects our commitment to strong instruction, innovative programs and meaningful support for students, schools and educators. Operational excellence ensures that the people, systems, resources and services behind that work are aligned, responsive and prepared for what comes next. Neither pillar stands alone. Together, they create a stronger foundation for everything we do, based on the vision of our 5-3-1 Strategic Plan.

Now let's get back to those three words: All. Together. Now.

As we begin a new school year, let this become more than a song title or familiar phrase. Let it be our shared cue for the year ahead — to include all, to work together, to focus on what matters and to begin immediately.

And yes, I realize I may have just put a Beatles song in your head. But maybe this particular earworm is a good thing.

It reminds us that inspiration can come from anywhere, and that timeless messages — like timeless songs — have a way of staying with us.