

FREE

School News



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Covering the Saddleback Valley Unified School District

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October 2017–January 2018



SVUSD Student Ambassadors for Learning





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Hal Barkate, DDS, MSD
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Superintendent



**Dr. Crystal
Turner**

Welcome

On behalf of the SVUSD Board of Education and myself, I would like to welcome you to the 2017–2018 school year! I have had the honor of being your superintendent for the past four months, and as many of you know, I started in the SVUSD as a teacher. It is a privilege to return home and work as a team with our stakeholders to take our students to new heights.

SVUSD had many outstanding celebrations in the 2016–2017 school year to highlight how “Saddleback Shines,” including a 95.7 percent graduation rate. We celebrated 122 International Baccalaureate graduates, seven National Merit Finalists, and 32 Dual Immersion graduates from Laguna Hills High School. Silverado High School also had the largest graduating class since opening their doors, with 107 graduates. Glen Yermo Elementary earned the 2016 California Gold Ribbon Award, and La Paz Intermediate earned the 2017 California Gold Ribbon Award.

During the summer, I was excited to see our staff participating in extensive Professional Development opportunities such as Instructional Rounds trainings, the OCDE STEM Summer Institute, Blended Learning trainings, social science framework committees, and a variety of math and NGSS trainings. The ELD Summer Enrichment Program for students was truly spectacular as well!

When I spoke with our community and staff, I heard the frequent requests for a central vision, and to that end “SV Innovates” was created. SV Innovates focuses on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies, and developing innovative practices that create successful students.

Some examples that I saw from the walk throughs in SVUSD this spring include Intentional Lesson Design, where teachers plan lessons intentionally to produce student learning (for example, small-group instruction, collaborative grouping, and more student talk time than teacher talk time). There was also Engaging Strategies, which includes more hands-on learning, the use of embedded instructional technology, and additional strategies which have the students answer questions each time instead of only using hand-raising to gather responses.

There is also Innovation: what makes each school special? Is it a special innovative program? Is it a STEM lab with Next Generation Science Standards included?

Our SVUSD schools are special, and are ready to take their programs to the next level. I know that SV Innovates, and it is because of our outstanding stakeholders. We have an incredible community that supports and

values education. Staff, administrators, and our school district departments are ready to help us all embark on this journey together.

I also know that our greatest inspiration will ultimately come from the daily magic that happens in the classroom, as students and teachers dive deeper into instruction and take risks with teaching and learning. I am looking forward to an incredible 2017–2018!



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Saddleback Valley Unified School District
25631 Peter A. Hartman Way Mission Viejo, CA 92691
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Virtual Academy



Glenn Giokaris
Principal

An Openness to Learning

The SVUSD Virtual Academy provides students in kindergarten through eighth grade with a flexible, engaging, and innovative student-centered learning experience. Using the tools of technology, teachers assign students weekly learning activities that are primarily completed online and that allow them to learn any time, at their own pace, and with the ability to receive virtual and face-to-face instructional support from a highly-qualified teacher.



Students are also provided opportunities to work with their teacher and peers in a face-to-face environment to maximize student learning, engagement, and strengthen their

academic and social-emotional intelligences during our Blended Learning Days held twice weekly in the Virtual Academy classrooms.

Technology is reshaping modern life; rapid technology growth is changing the nature of work, blurring the boundaries between countries and their citizens, stimulating economic and cultural growth, and creating profound social, economic, environmental, and existential challenges. These challenges and opportunities motivate and inspire us.

We believe that the world of work and citizenship requires that our students learn more in school than literacy and numeracy, and that they become productive and engaged citizens when challenged cognitively and mentored social- emotionally, while also being inspired and taught to work critically, creatively, and collaboratively as part of a learning community.

At the SVUSD Virtual Academy, we believe that the potentialities, challenges, and uncertainties of the future must be met with a conviction to create meaningful learning experiences that are flexible and highly personalized. We also wish to strengthen the social-emotional characteristics that humans require in order to thrive, engage, and inspire students to explore their passion and purpose, establish an innovator's mindset, and build the critical thinking and communication skills necessary for career and citizenship.

Undoubtedly, these are audacious goals, and will not be accomplished tomorrow. We know that as we learn and grow, the learning experiences of our students will also evolve and change. With a sincere belief in the power of education, an openness to learning, and utilizing an innovator's mindset, we are committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities to prepare and empower our students to become productive members of society.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to a new school year. This is an exciting time for students reconnecting with old friends, making new friends, meeting their teachers, and finding their way around the school. By now students have settled into a routine and are focused on their academic goals. We are pleased to have the privilege of publishing the excellence in the classrooms. We will be publishing Oct, Feb, April and June.

On page 3 Superintendent Dr. Turner brings you up to date on how "Saddleback Shines" and the new SV Innovates. Each of the principals are excited for the new school year and the opportunities in store for students.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. Be sure to enter our Word Search Contest on page 22.

Our next issue will be February 14. In the meantime, Happy Halloween, Thanksgiving, Holidays and New Year!

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Covering the

SADDLEBACK VALLEY

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Educational Services

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



Laura Ott
Assistant
Superintendent

Preparing for Success

The Saddleback Valley USD Educational Services Division, which encompasses curriculum and instruction, educational technology, services for English learners, special education and student services, welcomes you to the 2017–18 school year.

Our educational leaders strive to ensure that every student has the opportunity and access to achieve academically, socially and emotionally as well as be prepared for college and career beyond graduation.

Further, our educational programs emphasize research-based instructional strategies that promote responsive, equitable and innovative learning environments for all students. SVUSD schools offer unique curricular emphasis in all grade levels and in various content areas including science, mathematics, language arts, gifted and advanced-placement classes, International Baccalaureate, second-language support or dual immersion, and career-technical education. In addition, the academic environment at schools is enhanced by a variety of athletic opportunities, fine and performing-arts programs, and other student activities. SVUSD is a great place for student learning!

Human Resources

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



Dr. Terry Stanfill
Assistant
Superintendent

Welcoming New Employees

Saddleback Valley Unified's Human Resources Department has been busy this summer hiring our new staff for the 2017–18 school year. With over 2,000 applicants for our various teaching openings, SVUSD was once again able to hire the very best teachers. We also successfully hired new principals, assistant principals, district-level administrators, and support staff for our schools, specialized departments and district office.

Our new employees bring extensive experiences in their respected fields, including integrating technology into instruction, best educational practices and support for all students. These skills, combined with our current amazing staff, will provide the students of SVUSD with high-quality education that makes Saddleback Valley Unified one of the top districts in Orange County.

We are excited to welcome our new teachers, administrators and support staff to SVUSD and are looking forward to an outstanding school year!

girl scouts
of orange county

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Cielo Vista *Elementary*

21811 Avenida de Los Fundadores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/589-7456 • <http://svwp.svusd.org>



Beth Ewing
Principal

Let Us Soar!

It's a great day to be a HAWK! Cielo Vista is happy to begin each day with recognition, announcements, and patriotism.

Our students follow the "Hawk" way, and work hard to become college and career ready. Our teachers plan lessons that foster collaboration, creativity,

communication, and critical thinking. Cielo Vista is also proud to be an AVID school.

Technology is an integral part of our Cielo Vista too. We have interactive boards in every classroom, one-to-one devices in grades two to six, and we are also currently changing our computer lab into a STEM and robotics space for the students.

Cielo Vista students are also leaders, and we provide them with many opportunities for student leadership such as Student Council, PAL, and Team Kids. Come visit our newly remodeled campus and feel the positive energy and student engagement as our Cielo Vista Hawks learn to soar!



Cordillera *Elementary*

25952 Cordillera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-3400 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Deborah Shaver
Principal

PAWSitively the Best!

The staff, students, and parents at Cordillera Elementary School work together to create a positive school environment that ignites learning. The teaching staff works closely together to monitor student growth and achievement. Our strength is teamwork and communication among staff, students, and parents.

We continually reinforce positive behavior with our PAWS program. Each year begins with school-wide assemblies for PAWS expectations and anti-bullying strategies. There are consistent expectations throughout the campus, and many opportunities for positive reinforcement. Each Friday at our PAWS assemblies we recognize positive behaviors, share school news, and participate in Cordillera cheers. The student council also plans spirit wear days and sports competitions as well as other fun events throughout the year.

Families are key to the success of our students! Volunteers give hundreds of hours on campus as well as

provide students with assemblies, fine arts programs, and technology. We have 1:1 Chromebooks in grades four to six, a Chromebook cart for both grades two and three, and 2:1 iPads in kindergarten and first grade. Cordillera teachers also have participated in many professional development opportunities focused on technology integration.

Students participate in monthly STEAM challenges where they use claims, evidence, and reasoning to create STEAM projects focused on NGSS engineering and science standards. Our K-2 students engage in the Ramps and Pathways engineering program, and our upper-grade students are learning to program Lego Robotics. Each grade level also has a garden box where science and NGSS standards come to life.

Cordillera also participates in Class Act with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, and the Meet the Masters visual arts program. The arts are alive at Cordillera with these opportunities, as well as curriculum-integrated musicals at each grade level.

As you can see, Cordillera is a PAWSitively amazing place to learn and grow!

De Portola *Elementary*

27031 Preciados Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-5830 • <http://swvp.svusd.org>



Michael Gomez
Principal

Patriots Soar and Thrive

De Portola Elementary is proud to have twice been named a California Distinguished School, in 2004 and 2008. We're the only school with a full-size railroad caboose!

We're a GATE magnet school, with GATE classrooms in third through fifth grade.

We have a Collaborative Learning Lab with flexible seating and

furniture donated by a major tech corporation. Several classrooms have moved away from traditional desks and instead incorporate alternative seating and learning spaces. Technology is a core part of our instructional program, with one-to-one Chromebooks in fourth through sixth grade; a Chromebook Lab; and iPads in each K-3 classroom.



De Portola has a great community feeling, with a strong partnership with our parents and teachers. This results in a challenging, nurturing learning environment where students thrive in their learning and feel at home. Our heart and mission comprise excellence and innovation in teaching and learning, which is consistently demonstrated in our high academic achievement.

Del Cerro *Elementary*

24382 Regina St., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-5430 • <http://swvp.svusd.org>



Dr. Larry Callison
Principal

The Place to Be!

Together at Del Cerro, we seek to inspire the future one child at a time. Our teachers and staff believe that all students can learn; a positive, nurturing atmosphere fosters emotional, intellectual, social and physical growth; learning is not confined to within classroom walls; and we learn best in an environment of sharing, caring, laughing and questioning. We strive to have a partnership of staff, parents and community committed to all students' well-being.

As a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Magnet school, we provide scholarly differentiation that challenges and engages all students each year and offers parent-funded programs that extend student learning in science and the arts. We have one-to-one technology in second through sixth grades and SMART Boards in all of our kindergarten and first grades.

Del Cerro offers a variety of curricular experiences that involve our students and pique their curiosity. We partnered with JPL/NASA and Richard Stember, a NASA Solar System Ambassador, to bring Science Heads Mobile Observatory, Explorer 1 to Del Cerro to promote STEM education and encourage science literacy in our youth. It was a signature event, and our school and students were featured on NASA TV during the total solar eclipse in August!

Our staff and students promote a number of events during the school year to offer innovative and vibrant experiences that engage our motivated learners. These include Disability Awareness Day, a Science Fair, a Reflections program that promotes a variety of artistic productions, and lessons that encourage students to become familiar with their family history and its roots. We offer a number of Family Nights that bring together learning and holiday celebrations, book fairs, and monthly assemblies promoting student recognition for academics, citizenship, effort, technology and Lunch with the Principal.

As you can see, Del Cerro is the place to be!



Jennifer Televik
Principal

Students Return with a SPLASH

Del Lago Elementary is pleased to welcome new and returning students to the 2017–2018 school year. We are proud to partner with our families to ensure that our school is a place where students feel welcome and can enjoy opportunities for both academic and social growth.

Our highly-trained teachers and staff members are focused on providing rigorous academic instruction, and engaging their students as active participants in the learning process. This year our students will continue to use technology in the classrooms to further their learning, and will also explore new hands-on science units based on the Next Generation Science Standards.

All Del Lago students work hard every day to “Make a SPLASH.” Through our PBIS program, students demonstrate core values and contribute as scholars and citizens of our school community. We actively promote positive relationships and teach students to do their personal best. The Del Lago staff looks forward to a great year of helping students learn and grow!



El Toro High School

25255 Toledo Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-6333 • <http://swvp.svusd.org>



Terri Gusiff
Principal

The Charger Family has Spirit!

Under the leadership of Principal Terri Gusiff, during the past five years El Toro High School was named one of the best high schools in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*, a California Distinguished School, and one of most spirited high schools in America.

Beyond all of the student and staff accomplishments, it is important to know that there is the overwhelming consensus of stakeholders that El Toro High School has also created a culture of family. We call it the “Charger Family.”

In addition, El Toro has a positive school climate and a strong tradition of academic success and athletic accomplishment. El Toro boasts high graduation rates, high passing rates on college preparatory program examinations like the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) tests, SAT scores well above the national average, millions of dollars in scholarships, many student services awards, and several California Interscholastic Federation team titles.



Esperanza *Special Education*

25121 Pradera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-5470 • <http://svwp.svusd.org>



Rochelle Stewart
Special Ed School Site Specialist

Cups for Caring

Cups for Caring is back in full effect! Our Esperanza students are busy making coffee, working the cashbox, and selling sweet treats.

This program, facilitated by teacher Annie Lansburgh, is a huge success. Our student-run café is replete with coffee, tea and hot chocolate as well as delicious pastry items. Our staff eagerly awaits this weekly event. All proceeds last year and this year will go to buy

material to make blankets for shelter dogs. Not only is this program offering students work experience opportunities but also the students really enjoy making the fleece blankets that go to the animal shelters.

Ms. Lansburgh has carefully crafted this innovative weekly lesson with intentionally embedding choice, making this one of our students' favorite activities. Be on the lookout for upcoming photos of Ms. Lansburgh's own shelter dog, Princess Lorna Jane, on our Twitter account @esperanzaeagles, and when you're in the neighborhood, stop by to purchase a cup of hot, fresh coffee!



Foothill Ranch *Elementary*

1 Torino Dr., Foothill Ranch, CA 92610 • 949/470-4885 • <http://svwp.svusd.org>



Ed MacNevin
Principal

Ecology Garden

Whether you are new or returning to Foothill Ranch Elementary, I would like to take this time to introduce myself to you. My name is Mr. MacNevin, and I have been in education for 25 years. I taught grades one, three and five before becoming an assistant

principal and principal in SVUSD.

Something interesting about our school is that in the 2016–17 school year, Foothill Ranch Elementary was the recipient of a large Ecology Center grant. This grant afforded our school the opportunity to create a large professional garden center that our teachers are now using to grow fruits and vegetables. Teachers are also using this space as an outdoor laboratory to conduct science experiments. As our STEAM program grew last year, other planter spaces outside

teachers' classrooms were transformed into micro-garden centers. This year, our teachers are busily connecting all of our garden-center activities with the New Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Every day is a new day to learn and grow at Foothill Ranch!



Gates *Elementary*

23882 Landisview Ave., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/837-2260 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>

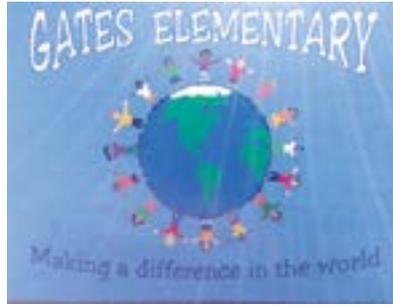


Yvonne Estling
Principal

Two Way Immersion

Gates Elementary School is home to the SVUSD's award-winning Two Way Immersion (TWI) program. Our program is designed to provide English-speaking and Spanish-speaking students with an exciting,

enriching, and challenging educational opportunity for 21st-century learning. Students learn to collaborate, communicate, and think critically in all academic content areas in Spanish and English.



The TWI Program continues on to Los Alisos Intermediate and Laguna Hills High School. By the end of twelfth grade, students will have obtained the bilingual skills and multicultural competencies to succeed in our global society and economy.

Our SVUSD program is a member of the International Spanish Academies, which is part of the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science. If you are interested in learning more about our incredible program, we encourage you to attend an upcoming tour on November 15, December 13, or January 24 at Gates, beginning at 9 a.m.

Glen Yermo *Elementary*

26400 Trabuco Rd., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-6766 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Lisa Graham
Principal

The Power of "Why"

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success," Henry Ford.

Glen Yermo Elementary's staff, parents, and students have experienced great

success and achievement by coming together with talent, teamwork, and the agreement of "Why." This Gold Ribbon and Title I Academic Achievement award-winning school places children at the heart of a collaborative effort focused on care, intentional design, and innovation. Their shared mission is to inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, and to care.



Each year plans are implemented to further student and school progress in four key areas: Intentional Design in programs and lessons; Simulating Environment focused on student engagement and academic rigor; Social Emotional Systems to support the whole child; and Collaboration among and between staff, parents, and students.

When asked about the school's success, Principal Graham readily shares that, "Glen Yermo is an amazing school with passionate staff and parents, and our students are precious! Our school's achievement can only be described as a shared success."

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La Madera *Elementary*

25350 Serrano Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/770-1415 • <http://swvp.svusd.org>



Heather Ramsey
Principal

40 Years of Excellence

Heather Ramsey is honored to serve as the principal of La Madera Elementary, home of the Koalas. La Madera is a beautiful school nestled in the eucalyptus groves of Lake Forest. Whenever anyone visits La Madera, they always comment on the great energy on campus, friendly staff and respectful students.

In addition to being a place where people feel welcome, we're known for our academic excellence. La Madera is one of five GATE Magnet Schools in our district. All students and teachers are encouraged to be innovators, take risks and grow together as a community of learners!

This year, La Madera is proud to be celebrating our 40th birthday/anniversary—40 years of excellence in education! We're truly a neighborhood school—many parents of current Koalas attended La Madera themselves!

At La Madera our focus is "Every Koala, Every Day"—every student matters every day!



La Paz *Intermediate*

25151 Pradera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-1720 • <http://swvp.svusd.org>



Jean Walker
Principal

WEB Students Making Connections!

La Paz takes great pride in making connections with all new students before the First Day of School. On August 25th, all 405 new students were treated to an action-packed orientation orchestrated by eighty-plus energized 8th grade WEB leaders and

their spirited WEB

teacher advisor, Mrs. Rebekah Pogue. The WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) event began with a high octane assembly which quickly evolved into small group team building activities, campus tours, group pictures, and of course, popsicles to celebrate all the new cool friendships that

were formed. Cody Cook, an 8th Grade WEB Leaders said he enjoys WEB because 7th graders get "to have an extra friend that's an 8th grader...and it's fun to get the group together to play games and meet new friends." Olivia La Roche, a 7th grade student, mirrored Cody's thoughts, "the WEB leaders made La Paz exciting!" Go Leopards!



Laguna Hills *High School*

25401 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/770-5447 • <http://swpp.svusd.org>



Bill Hinds
Principal

Freshman Nest Program

At Laguna Hills High School, staff believe in educating the whole student. To accomplish this, incoming freshmen experienced a different kind of Freshman Orientation this year. After an exciting

welcome in the main gym, all freshmen were divided into their “Freshman Nests.” Each nest consists of 22 freshmen and 2-3 student leaders. Students spent the day getting to know one another, addressing issues freshmen commonly face, familiarizing themselves with programs and activities at LHHS, discussing what they want their LHHS “story” to be, and bonding as a nest. These conversations will continue throughout the year when they meet as a group

twice a month during tutorial.

The Freshman Nest program is designed to help freshmen successfully transition into high school life by creating meaningful connections on campus and a strong sense of community at LHHS.



Lake Forest *Elementary*

21801 Pittsford Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/830-9945 • <http://www.lakeforestelementaryschool.com>



Audra Bailey
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead

Audra Bailey is pleased to serve as principal at Lake Forest Elementary School. From its unique classrooms to spacious grounds, Lake Forest is a great place to be. It is grounded in tradition, strong core teaching, and innovative practices.

Thanks to funding from the PTO, Lake Forest is proud to launch their new traveling STEAM program. Mr. Imawaga, a retired engineer, has developed a program

for all students in grades K–6. He will be going into the classrooms to work with the students on grade-level STEAM activities this year.

Lake Forest celebrated its 25th anniversary last year. During the celebration, the mayor of Lake Forest presented a certificate to the school. The night was celebrated by a “blast from the past” playing life size games from 1991. Students enjoyed looking at yearbooks from the past 25 years, and delicious food from a restaurant established in 1991.

Lake Forest has had an amazing 25 years, and is looking forward to what the next 25 has in store.



Linda Vista *Elementary*

25222 Pericia Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-0970 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Suzy McMasters
Principal

About Our Principal!

Suzy McMasters begins her sixth year as the principal of Linda Vista Elementary School. Mrs. McMasters grew up in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District, having attended Montevideo Elementary, La Paz Intermediate and Mission Viejo High schools.

McMasters joined the SVUSD family in 2012 after serving as an instructional assistant, a teacher, a resource teacher, a vice principal and a principal in the Anaheim City School District. In 1996, she was awarded the Outstanding New Teacher of the Year honor in Southern California and the Co-Administrator of the Year award for the state of California in 2009.

The beautiful Linda Vista campus serves 350 students from the cities of Mission Viejo and Laguna Hills. This school year, Linda Vista is proud to become a Visual and Performing Arts

(VAPA) focus school in SVUSD. Students in kindergarten through sixth grade will participate in music classes on a weekly basis and have opportunities to participate in visual arts, media arts, theater and dance throughout the school year.



Linda Vista first grade students bang the drums in music class on the first day of school with Music Teacher, Ms. Alyse Thompson.

Lomarena *Elementary*

25100 Earhart Rd., Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/581-1370 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Brendon Morrow
Principal

Lomarena Ambassadors

The Lomarena staff is focused on the whole child, and is committed to performing school-wide STEM projects involving all students. The staff focuses on academics and current practices in the classroom. There is additional emphasis on social development and purposeful instruction of life skills needed to become college and career ready. Science, technology, engineering, and math

are focal points of the centrally located Makerspace and

STEM Lab.

Lomarena is a certified PAL (Peer Assistance and Leadership) school, and the Ambassador Program offers all students a chance for leadership opportunities. Each Monday the entire school community gathers for a PAWS assembly to promote communication and to recognize excellence.

The Lomarena PTA is also very active, and provides many items and events to benefit all students. Lomarena's staff and principal are grateful for their students and community as they optimistically look forward to another fantastic year.



Los Alisos *Intermediate*

25171 Moor Ave., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-9700 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Rich Freda
Principal

LOBO Pryde!

Our entire staff at Los Alisos would like to welcome our LOBO families to the 2017–18 school year! Our office staff worked very hard throughout the summer to make sure we had a successful

opening of school, and we did!

It was an amazing first day. Our students learned about school expectations in a positive way through our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports program (PBIS). Students toured the campus and met with administrative staff in grade-level meetings to help them feel comfortable, welcome and excited about this school year.

Meanwhile, our teachers had two productive days of staff development in which the focus was on using Kagan Structures in the classroom to increase student engagement and to improve effective group work and



collaboration, essential 21st century learning skills. We also reinforced our ongoing commitment to create positive relationships with our students.

Our entire staff at Los Alisos looks forward to working with students and families to reinforce our strong sense of LOBO community.

Melinda Heights *Elementary*

21001 Rancho Trabuco, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/888-7311 • <http://www.melinda-heights.com>



Kathy Martin
Principal

Mountain Lion Teamwork

Melinda Heights Elementary School is nestled in the hills of Rancho Santa Margarita and serves nearly 1,000 eager learners. At Melinda, our mission is threefold. We aim to challenge our students with purposeful use of technology and a

balanced educational program, and instill the character traits necessary for success in the world of tomorrow.

It is an honor for Kathy Martin to begin her second year as principal at Melinda Heights. Mrs. Martin truly believes that there is no nobler profession than helping to shape the next generation. Not a day goes by that she is not grateful for and humbled by the outstanding professionals in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District. John Wooden said it best: “The main

ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team.”

Mrs. Martin is proud to be working with the star students, fantastic families and excellent educators at Melinda Heights. Go Mountain Lions!



Mission Viejo *High School*

25025 Chrisanta Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/837-7722 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Tricia Osborne
Principal

MVHS Shines on Stage

Mission Viejo High School welcomes Mrs. Tricia Osborne as Principal for the 2017–2018 school year. Mrs. Osborne has a rich history with the Saddleback Valley Unified School District as a teacher, activities director, and assistant principal. She has dedicated herself to SVUSD staff, students, and families for the past 20 years.

Mission Viejo High School is truly outstanding, and one of the top high schools

in the nation. Our award-winning programs, community partnerships, high expectations for all, and strong relationships are some of the reasons that Mission Viejo stands out among the best.

An example of our award winning programs is our performing arts, where the cast and crew of Thoroughly Modern Millie was awarded the 2017 Comic Musical of the Year by the John Raitt (JRAY) Program. In addition, our orchestra was named Student Orchestra of the Year.

We look forward to another outstanding year. It is clear that Mission Viejo High School is a pillar of this exceptional community.



Montevideo *Elementary*

24071 Carrillo Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-8050 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Mona Montgomery
Principal

Elements of a Community

Montevideo Elementary is a diverse community of learners committed to becoming leaders of the 21st century. We pride ourselves as being a highly

inclusive community that embraces our differences. At Montevideo, we have a specialized academic instruction (SAI) program for autism that is integrated within our school. The children at Montevideo are very accepting of all children of various abilities and needs.

Our staff is focused on providing an engaging environment with innovative lessons that challenge all



students to reach their full potential. The school has integrated either Chromebooks or iPads into every classroom. We are currently developing a new STEAM lab for students to become more proficient with the NGSS science standards.

From the time you walk onto the Montevideo campus, it is easy to feel the sense of community between parents, PTA, staff and students. Parental involvement is the norm and adds to the warm, collaborate atmosphere at the school.

Our scholars at Montevideo strive to ROCK every day, being Responsible, Optimistic, Courageous and Kind.

Olivewood *Elementary*

23391 Dune Mear Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/837-6682 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Eva Neuer
Principal

Fifty Years and Counting

At Olivewood Elementary, students show their Mustang PRIDE by being Prepared, Respectful, full of Integrity, Dependable, and Engaged. It is a TK–6 campus of happy students, dedicated staff, and caring families.

In her fourth year as principal, Mrs. Eva Neuer and the teachers have set high goals to have their students reading on grade level. You'll see big and little buddies, volunteers, teachers, and children of all ages enjoying adventures inside the pages of a book.

Students in grades three to six have 1:1 iPads and Chromebooks. Students in the lower grades also use technology to show their learning. We use our creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication skills to grow into positive and productive citizens who will succeed in tomorrow's world.

Olivewood's 520 students are served by 25 teachers and 30+ support staff. Recently, for the school's 50th anniversary, hundreds of students, former students, teachers, parents, and neighbors all came to visit the campus and enjoy some birthday cake.



Portola Hills *Elementary*

19422 Saddleback Ranch Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 • 949/459-9370 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Joseph Ledoux
Principal

Community Strength

Portola Hills Elementary (PHE) is a unique learning community set in picturesque Trabuco

Canyon. Currently there are 23 certificated teachers and over 20 support staff members serving 650 students in grades K-6.

PHE is lead by their Principal, Dr. Ledoux, who is starting his fifth year in SVUSD. He served as an upper grade teacher for 10 years and was also an elementary principal in Redondo Beach, CA. He believes PHE's greatest strength is the strong sense of community amongst the students, parents, and staff members. The PTA works long hours fundraising for various school programs such as Art Masters, Dance with Dawn, Imagination Machine assembly,

playground equipment, teacher grants, and STEAM education. Through the generous help of the PTA, PHE was able to realize their goal of becoming a 1:1 device school in grades 2-6. Please follow PHE on Twitter @PHEexplorers or on Facebook @Portola Hills Elementary.



Rancho Canada *Elementary*

21801 Winding Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/786-5252 • <http://swvp.svusd.org>



Dr. Larry Hausner
Principal

Engaging Students with Technology

The mission of Rancho Canada Elementary staff is to provide a multifaceted learning experience to students in a stimulating, caring, educational environment, marked by a focus on technology and continuing innovation in instructional techniques. Rancho Canada is a terrific school community, and I am looking forward to another year of working

with the staff, students and families to maintain and improve the excellent educational experience Rancho offers.

The entire Rancho Canada community is looking forward to an exciting school year. Some of the expected highlights for the 2017–18 school year include a PTA-sponsored STEAM lab, one-to-one Chromebooks in grades three through six, one-to-one iPads in grade one, and a deepening of the iPad implementation in kindergarten and grade two. Rancho Canada strives to encourage and create 21stcentury learners!



Rancho Santa Margarita *Intermediate*

21931 Alma Aldea, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
949/459-8253 • <http://swvp.svusd.org>



Brian Ferguson
Principal

Raising the Bar

RSM Intermediate is on the mark again in 2017–2018! With a new logo and another year of exceptional achievement behind us, our Roadrunners are ready to raise the bar again.

Our staff is hard at work designing instructional experiences that will engage students in new levels of learning. We are focusing on fostering curiosity, providing real-world learning, enhancing student choice, building relationships, providing clear and modeled expectations along with effective feedback, and creating a positive climate through our encouraging



and motivating instruction.

Our beginning of the school year has been fun-filled and challenging, as we move from “Soar Above the Line” thinking to “Make Each Day a Masterpiece.” Our annual Lip Dub was to the tune of *Can't Stop the Feeling*, because there is no place better than RSM Intermediate!

We are excited to begin this year, and are poised to turn around another great class to the high schools in 2018.

BRING ELEPHANTS INTO YOUR CLASSROOM!



The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust offers a program that brings elephants and conservation education into your classroom. Our education program is tailored by grade and provides a variety of teaching tools:

- PowerPoint presentations
- In-class lessons & activities
- Fundraising & advocacy ideas
- Teacher's Resource Guide

To participate or for more information about what our program offers, please email us at education@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

or call us at 949-305-3785

Best known for their work rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned elephants back into the wild herds of Tsavo, the DSWT's mission encompasses a much broader vision that ensures the sustainable protection of wildlife, habitats and communities for future generations.

www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

Robinson *Elementary*

21400 Lindsay Dr., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 • 949/589-2446 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Jonathan Kaplan
Principal

STEM in the Canyon

The entire Robinson staff and Principal Jon Kaplan would like to welcome continuing and new Robinson Elementary Rattlers!

Mr. Kaplan is beginning his seventh year as principal at Robinson Elementary.

Robinson Elementary is nestled in Trabuco Canyon on the northern edge of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District. From its beginning in 1994, Robinson has always been a school that purposely sought out new and innovative ideas in educational instruction. Last year, our teachers initiated Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) lessons at all grade levels. This year, in addition to implementing the new English language arts and English language development adoption, called Benchmark Advance, we plan to expand our curricular knowledge in this area and add a STEM makerspace at the school with the help of our fabulous Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

The future is bright at Robinson. We are a community of learners—teachers, staff, parents and most of all, our students, all learning, growing and caring for one another. Go Rattlers!



Students and Principal are giving the Robinson salute (Fangs and hissing) for the Rattlers.

San Joaquin *Elementary*

22182 Barbera, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/581-3450 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Dr. Karen Schibler
Principal

Community Connections

At San Joaquin, our focus is instructional technology for student engagement and innovative learning. All students have either an iPad or a Chromebook, and academics, with heavy emphasis on leveled reading and math, are focal points. We are also a certified

AVID school, have a state-of-the-art garden, and are implementing NGSS science units and project-based learning (STEAM).

As a smaller school, we can invite all parents on the first Friday of every month to pack a lunch, bring a blanket, and enjoy our PAWS luncheon on the lawn with their children. We thank our strong community partners that support our students, such as the backpack giveaway at the beginning of the school year sponsored by a

retail-discount corporation.

Our mascot is the cheetah, and PAWS (play fair, act responsibly, work hard, show respect) is our mantra. We're excited to welcome new students—our dedicated staff is eager to start another year!



Santiago *Elementary*

24982 Rivendell Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-2820 • <http://swvp.svusd.org>



Howard Johnston
Principal

Bringing Creative Learning to Life.

Santiago Elementary is known as the “School Among the Trees.” We are passionately focused on developing intelligent, creative and kind young adults; a place where first-graders collaboratively design, prototype, and build real-world solutions to everyday problems.

As a certified AVID school, Santiago focuses on the skills and behaviors for academic success, creating positive peer groups, and developing a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination.

Santiago is also leading the way with technology. We have a 1:1 device program in the first through sixth grades. All students thrive with ST Math, a software program designed to use visual game play and critical thinking to develop math skills and concepts. The finishing touches are underway too for The Learning HUB, a Flexible Space to research, collaborate, and present ideas locally and globally.

Please, stop by and we'll provide you with a tour. We are Intelligent. We are Creative. We are Kind. We are Santiago!



Serrano *Intermediate*

24642 Jeronimo Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-3221 • <http://swvp.svusd.org>



Robert Sherlock
Principal

Soaring into Academic Success

The Serrano Intermediate School learning community is committed to the academic success of every student. We celebrate our diverse student population, as well as our dedicated and caring staff members who utilize an array of teaching strategies that help

promote student success.

Serrano has a wide variety of programs to ensure that all student needs are met. We have a strong career technical education program that includes courses such as STEAM, computer programming and application, and a video broadcasting class which produces the “Good Morning Serrano” news show.

In addition, our school-wide AVID program creates a culture of college and career readiness. All

student needs are met through a variety of differentiated models in the classrooms, including honors level and co-teach classes. Student use of technology is integrated into all core classes, with a focus on collaboration and higher-level critical thinking skills. Serrano is a place where all children can soar!



Silverado/Mira Monte *Continuation High School*

25632 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-8800 • <http://svwp.svusd.org>



David Gordon
Principal

Back on Track

Silverado High School is excited to announce a new program that has started this fall to support ninth- and 10th-grade students. The “On Track” program is specifically designed to help our younger students get on track for high school graduation. Specially trained teaching staff, using engaging curriculum, will provide the assistance these students need.

In addition, Mira Monte, our independent study high school, is now offering a high school diploma program through a computer based online-education platform. This online option will complement the current independent study model of students working with their teachers in a blended model of online and in-seat coursework

In Saddleback Valley Unified School District, our goal is to assist a larger number of students to meet their educational goals in many different educational programs.



Trabuco *Elementary*

31052 Trabuco Canyon Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678 • 949/858-0343 • <http://svwp.svusd.org>



Lisa Paisley
Principal

Past, and Future

Trabuco Elementary School is truly a treasure in the canyon. We are proud to have been serving the community since 1879! Our school is unique in its parent involvement, as well as the unique facilities in which our students learn. The students are able to practice scientific inquiry both inside (using our state-of-the-art STEM lab), and outside on the farm with Farmer Kelly.

Trabuco is also pleased to have a new look for our farm! The animals are pretty happy with their new fences and footing, too. We have two new baby doll sheep, a miniature donkey, and two miniature horses that will be permanent residents on our little farm. They complement the goats, sheep, and chickens who were already thriving here. We look forward to also bottle feeding a calf and raising piglets again this year.



Trabuco is truly rooted in the past, and branching toward the future!

Trabuco Hills *High School*

27501 Mustang Run, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/768-1934 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Craig Collins
Principal

Marching Band in Washington D.C.

Trabuco Hills High School is proud to announce summer success stories! Hats off to 2017's Class of International Baccalaureate seniors, the largest in school history. There were 29 candidates, and a record 26 candidates earned the full IB diploma after a school record of 169 IB exams were taken last year.

The Marching Band and Color Guard were also selected to participate in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. Trabuco Hills' marching program was contacted by Rep. Mimi Walters on behalf of Gov. Jerry Brown, said the school's music director. Only one high school program per state is invited to participate.



Our girls' volleyball program traveled to Maui, Hawaii to participate in the LeeAnn Delima Tournament, ending as tournament champions! We are very proud of all of our programs here at TH, and are looking forward to a year filled with successes in extracurricular and academics! Go, Blue!

Trabuco Mesa *Elementary*

21301 Ave de las Flores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/858-3339 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



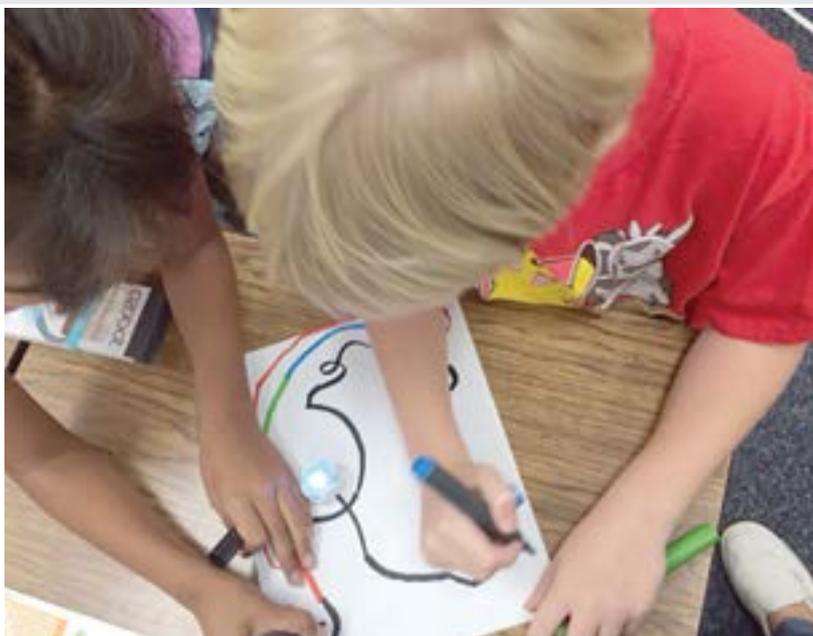
Caryn McGrew
Principal

Engaging in STEAM Activities

Trabuco Mesa Elementary School is a California Distinguished School known for its outstanding teaching staff and high expectations for student achievement. Our goal is to provide a strong foundation for learning, and a safe school environment to help all students become successful in school and life. We welcome all new and returning Trabuco Mesa families to the 2017–2018 school year.

Hands-on science has been a focus at Trabuco Mesa for many years. We are fortunate to have a strong PTA that embraces and supports this focus by funding a science specialist who collaborates with our classroom teachers to provide many hands-on science experiences for the students. We will continue to focus on incorporating STEAM activities not only in our hands-on science lab but also in our classroom instruction.

Recently, students in the first and second grades discovered how to program an Ozobot as part of their



Students program robots for hands-on learning

STEAM activities. Throughout the school year, Trabuco Mesa students will look forward to more engaging hands-on experiences.

Valencia *Elementary*

25661 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/830-3650 • <http://swwp.svusd.org>



Wendie Hauschild
Principal

STRIVE For Excellence

Valencia Elementary is home to approximately 600 students who STRIVE for excellence daily. STRIVE stands for “scholars, team player, respect, integrity, valor and empathy.” Students receive positive reinforcement for exhibiting these character traits through our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Systems) behavior management program. We believe that expected student

behavior should not be a mystery but instead be explicitly taught and positively reinforced by teachers and other caring adults at school.

Through the generosity of our PTA, students benefit from Playworks, a program that promotes a healthy social-emotional environment through safe, organized recess play. Our PTA also provides specialized art instruction at each grade level; a fully equipped science lab and teacher, with a focus on NGSS and engineering; Reading Counts; drama; chorus; and a top-notch library.

As a GATE magnet school, Valencia’s GATE-identified students may be placed in a self-contained class with all GATE students or in a class with a GATE cluster. We pride ourselves on providing differentiation and rigor for all students and serve all levels of learners. For students with IEP-identified goals, we have SDC classes, RSP, occupational therapy, and speech and language services for support.

Valencia is a one-to-one campus, offering Chromebooks as an educational tool at each grade level. Additionally, students are able to utilize our Mac lab, often with a focus on engineering applications.

Perhaps our favorite thing about our school is that Valencia has a true family feel. Teachers, instructional aides, office staff and principal seek to build relationships with students and parents. Parent volunteers are an active force here and are much appreciated. We all work together with a focus on student learning. We know that for some students, school may be the only constant in their lives. Valencia Elementary is a safe and caring place to learn and grow.

Novelist –Word Search Contest

Rules!

One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put SVUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by November 15, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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