



COVINA-VALLEY

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Educational Excellence For Every Student, Every Day”



Our community has a well-deserved reputation for supporting the students of Covina-Valley Unified School District. Thanks to the passage of Measure CC, C-VUSD has been able to provide “Educational Excellence For Every Student, Every Day.” Our staff continues to implement innovative research-based programs and practices to ensure the highest levels of achievement for all students. Our school-wide programs are focused

on student engagement that fosters innovative, positive environments within and outside the classroom to connect students to learning, thereby guaranteeing all students are eligible and ready for college and careers upon graduation and fulfilling our mission:

“Every student will be able to communicate reasoning, collaborate, demonstrate critical thinking, and creatively problem-solve, in every classroom, every day - No Exceptions!”

Our talented team of educators incorporates technology into instruction, teaches computer science and coding at every grade level, and has expanded Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways. We offer Dual Enrollment programs (College/High School), implemented Dual Language Immersion (Spanish and Mandarin), and outstanding athletics, arts, and extra-curricular programs all while providing rigorous academic programs at every grade level. Over the course of the past six years, C-VUSD has more than doubled the rate of students completing the UC/CSU subject matter course requirements making it one of the highest rates in the valley. All three of our comprehensive high schools (Covina, Northview, and South Hills) routinely send students to national colleges and universities, including Yale, Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCLA, USC, John Hopkins, and Notre Dame. Many of our graduates also earn International Baccalaureate Diplomas, AP Capstone Scholars, California Seal of Biliteracy, and the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. Standardized tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics continue to increase. College readiness has increased, and our students perform higher than many of our neighboring districts. As a result, C-VUSD has received state and national recognition for closing the achievement gap, increasing the Hispanic/Latino graduation rates, California Model District for Inclusive Practices for Special Education, multiple California Gold Ribbon Awards, California

Distinguished School Awards, California and National Forum – Schools to Watch, National AVID Demonstration School, California Schools of Character, California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award, and membership in The League of Innovative Schools.

By working with industry partners, students who complete one of our many CTE pathways graduate with the academic, technical, and employability skills needed for postsecondary and workplace success. High school students are able to enroll in over 20 CTE pathways including Agriculture Science, Veterinarian Science, Digital Filmmaking, Visual and Commercial Art, Animation, Professional Theater, Professional Music, Business and Finance, Sports Management, Child Development and Education, Administration of Justice – Police Explorers, Welding and Joining, Carpentry, Engineering, Culinary Hospitality, Information Technology, Nursing Assistant, Physical Therapy, Sports Physical Therapy, and Court Reporting. Upon completion of many of these pathways, students are able to earn industry certifications including Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), FAA Drone Certification (Drone, Safety, FAA Part 107, and VSO), COMP TIA A+ Networking Certification, and LADBS Welding MAW, FCAW, GMAW & GTAW, Safe Serve, Google Suite Certification for Business, CPR, First Aid, AED, and Adobe Certification. Recent graduates have received scholarships to Berkley - Engineering Program, USC - Film Making, University of La Verne and Fullerton College - Digital Film Making, Cal Poly - Culinary and Hospitality Program, and special admission for Business at Berkeley and Stanford.

As a member of The League of Innovative Schools, our schools have been on the cutting edge of infusing technology into every aspect of teaching and learning. We couldn't have done this without the upgraded technology infrastructure our community helped fund last spring, when all California Schools were forced to close their doors to in-person learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to our community support, C-VUSD was one of the only districts prepared to quickly provide on-line learning and laptop devices for every student.

The entire C-VUSD team appreciates the wonderful support we receive from our community and industry partners. We are dedicated to supporting every child as we prepare them for College and Careers upon graduation. It is an honor to serve as your Superintendent and thank you for entrusting us with your child's learning.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Eminhizer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Enroll now at www.c-vusd.org



FALL 2020

Curriculum and Instruction

by Julie Harrison, *Director of Curriculum and Instruction*
and Andrea Katanic, *Ed.D., Director of Curriculum and Instruction*

The summer months have brought with them an opportunity to increase and enhance what we do for our Covina-Valley students. Summer School was a success! Our elementary students participated in a summer virtual learning enrichment program that was open to all. Students reviewed language arts and math concepts for their grade level as well as enrichment activities, including writing and drawing activities. Additional reading and math intervention support was provided for students in need of extra assistance. Our middle school students also had an opportunity to complete coursework to bridge their knowledge to the next grade level. Hundreds of our high school students completed courses through Mount San Antonio College in their quest to be college and career ready, and we want to thank Mount San Antonio College for their invaluable support and partnership with Covina-Valley Unified!

Our comprehensive high schools continue to push to new heights with the expansion of Pre-AP course offerings in English 10 and Chemistry for the upcoming school year. We have also expanded Career and Technology Education (CTE) pathways in Veterinary Science, Education, and Administration of Justice. In tandem with our CTE programs, we have expanded our Dual Enrollment at all three high schools and increased our articulation agreements with Mount San Antonio College. These courses allow our high school students to earn college credit while they are enrolled at their respective high school. There are now 23 articulated courses and 13 Dual Enrollment courses for the 2020-21 school year!

TK-12 teacher leaders have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming school year. These teams have been coordinating content and curriculum pacing across the district and creating resources to share. Our collaborative structure and ability to work as a cohesive unit have significantly increased our effectiveness. The teachers in this district are 100% committed to our students and their ability to find success!

Congratulations are in order for our middle school sites! Las Palmas Middle School

secured a revalidation as an AVID National Demonstration School. Traweek Middle School received a competitive Verizon grant. Sierra Vista's Builders club was recognized as a distinguished club, and the site received a grant from Barne's foundation to support after school activities. All three C-VUSD middle schools were recognized for "Honor Roll" status by the Campaign for Business and Excellence and were also designated as "Schools to Watch."

Elementary schools continue to move forward with our Coding and Dual Language Programs. All nine elementary schools continue to grow our TK-12 computer science program. Our students continue to gain critical thinking, analytical, and computational skills for the future. Awesome is our new normal! Our Spanish Dual Language Program at Manzanita Elementary School and Mandarin Dual Language Program at Mesa Elementary School continue to grow with new transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students beginning each year. The benefits of these programs, in addition to bilingualism, include flexible thinking, increased ability to problem-solve, and an appreciation for other cultures. We have seen our students blossom as a result of the program, and we are very excited to see continued growth!

C-VUSD provides continued growth and development opportunities not only for our students but also for our incredible staff! Covina-Valley is dedicated to building the leadership capacity of schools to transform teaching and learning across the district, as every student matters, counts, and deserves to reach their full potential! At each school site, Covina-Valley Instructional Leadership Teams are comprised of teachers and site administrators who work together to increase student success by setting goals for the school, planning teacher professional development to help meet those goals, and monitoring student progress throughout the school year. Now, in Covina-Valley, you will see teachers collaboratively learning together instead of someone delivering professional development to them.

Instructional Leadership Teams focus on increasing collective teacher efficacy in order to have a greater impact on student achievement. The Instructional Leadership Team helps provide a structure for teachers to identify areas of student need and then work collaboratively to decide on the best instructional practices to use in response to those needs. These teams use a common framework to guide the improvement efforts across the school over time. A significant piece of the leadership framework involves carefully monitoring student performance in an effort to bring about positive results. Site data and goals are shared regularly by posting information around the school site, in classrooms, and sending home to parents.

At Cypress Elementary, the students and staff have a goal to increase student reading comprehension. Throughout the school year, the Cypress staff analyzed data and participated in professional development related to reading comprehension. Teachers regularly shared strategies to increase reading comprehension at staff meetings. Cypress's focus on reading comprehension continued despite their move to Distance Learning at the end of the 2019-20 school year. Family Reading Nights continued virtually instead of in-person. Using Google Meet, the Cypress principal and staff held a virtual Family Reading Night, where Cypress staff read books to students, and families shared what they were reading at home. A total of 82 families participated, the event exceeded previous attendance at Family Reading Nights!

Instructional leadership is absolutely essential and abounds across all sites. Our teachers are presenting robust instructional programs and are prepared to adjust to the structures that best fit the California Department of Public Health guidelines and the needs of our families. Together, our efforts and adjustment to current times have made us stronger and more efficient than ever. We are committed to a focus on "Every Student, Every Day!"



Teacher of the Year - April Buege

Teacher of the Year, April Buege, is a third-grade teacher at Barranca Elementary School. Mrs. Buege began her employment in the District in 2015 at Rowland Elementary. She moved to Barranca Elementary in 2017. Mrs. Buege always steps up to lead but did

so especially during the trying times of virtual learning. She leads by example - not with a loud voice, but with a philosophy of being a servant leader to not only students and families, but to teachers and administrators. She is creative, compassionate, and a consummate professional.

"Educational Excellence For Every Student, Every Day"

Safe and Healthy Meals for Students



During the unprecedented school closure, Covina-Valley students were provided FREE Grab-N-Go meals every weekday. This ensured children 18 years old and younger had access to healthy, nutritious meals. Over 200,000 meals were served to students. Five-day Meal Kits are now available for students at Northview and Covina High Schools and Sierra Vista Middle School during the 2020-21 school year. For more information, please call (626) 974-7000.

Covina-Valley Unified School District's Learning Options Academy

by Jonathan Blackmore, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

This fall, Covina-Valley Unified School District is excited to open the Learning Options Academy. This new school is Covina-Valley's first full-time, K-12 virtual learning school. The Learning Options Academy will provide students and families with the option to choose an entirely virtual schedule. C-VUSD will offer a broad range of rigorous courses for students from Kindergarten through Grade 12 with virtual high school courses delivering a variety of A-G and NCAA-approved core, elective, honors, and AP courses.

C-VUSD has worked to assure that rigor, relevance, flexibility, and relationships are essential elements of our online coursework. This is achieved through high-quality content that includes a multimedia-rich, interactive learning experience that is aligned and delivered by highly trained, highly qualified C-VUSD teachers. With engaging and interactive content available 24/7 from anywhere in the world, our curriculum encourages students to master key concepts as they progress through lessons. Throughout the learning experience, students receive support from certified C-VUSD teachers who provide one-on-one instruction. The Learning Options Academy will offer three distinct programs: Virtual Learning, Independent Study, and Homeschooling. The Learning Options Academy is available to all students in Covina-Valley Unified School District. Please visit our website (www.c-vusd.org) or call the Student Services office at (626) 974-7000 for enrollment information.



Board of Education

Sonia Frasquillo
Board President

Gary C. Rodriguez
Board Vice President

Rachael Robles
Board Clerk

Sue L. Maulucci
Board Member

Darrell A. Myrick
Board Member

“Educational Excellence For Every Student, Every Day”

Exciting Career Pathway Opportunities

Career and Technical Pathways allow students to gain and apply job specific training in a career field. This is accomplished through providing rigorous and relevant career specific learning opportunities that enhance the District's efforts to empower students with the knowledge to make informed career choices and gain the skills necessary to succeed in their chosen professions.



South Hills High School offers a Culinary and Hospitality Pathway designed to prepare students for exciting career opportunities in the Food and Hospitality Services industry. Students utilize a modern kitchen to cook as an integral part of the hands-on curriculum.



Covina High School has a farm on campus, which allows us to offer Agriculture Science and Animal Science courses. It prepares students to become veterinarians, entrepreneurs, researchers, and educators.



Our Traweek Middle School Robotics program is designed to address the interests and energy of middle school students, while incorporating standards in math, science, and technology. Students learn how to apply engineering to solve everyday problems.