

UPDATE – JULY 2016

Bonita Unified High School Graduation Reports

Chaparral High School

Friends and family of the 31 graduates from Chaparral High School joined the Board of Education and District Administration to celebrate the school's 48th Commencement Exercises at the 2016 graduation ceremony at the Bonita Center for the Arts in San Dimas on June 7.

Principal Christine Black applauded the graduates for their perseverance, reminding graduates that, “beyond the lessons in the classroom, what each of you learned while at Chaparral High School was to persevere, to be resilient, to forgive past missteps, to bounce back, to pick yourself up, and to move forward. You kept your eye on your goal, you stuck to your plan...and here you are.”

Graduate Sierra Jordan made a similar statement, telling classmates, “The staff at Chaparral High School has taught us to never give up on what we want. We are leaving here knowing that if we think it, we can do it... NOTHING is impossible.”

Graduate Hunter Haro also recognized the teachers and staff who took “the time, had the patience, and cared enough to talk to us directly. They encouraged me to try and reminded me that I could do these things... I could recover from whatever setbacks I may have suffered and persevere.”

Graduate Brianna Le looked to the future. “We find ourselves now in the position to start carving our future in the adult world. This isn't the end; it's the beginning. It's the beginning of the time in our lives when we enter college to become an expert at something we care about, we enter the workforce and discover a career we love that will eventually support a family, and we will stand on our own two feet as responsible citizens.”

Principal Black reminded students of the endless potential their future holds. “There is freedom to make the choices that will set your course and determine the mark you will make on the world. But that freedom also comes with accountability and responsibility—the responsibility to take what you have learned from both the textbook and the book of life, and do something with them. Use them to better your future and help better the world for others.”

The following achievement awards and scholarship recipients were recognized:

Department Achievement Awards

Emily Reese, *English*

Hunter Haro, *Math*

Kenny Bullock, *Government*

Gilberto Ceja-Sosa, *Economics*

Wyatt Nelsen, *Fine Arts*

Jonathan Salcedo, *Hospitality*

Sierra Jordan, *Events Planning*

Hannah Arteta, *Computers*

Brianna Le, *Renaissance*

Kevin Zhao, *Accelerated Reader*

Sarah Strathkoetter, *Above & Beyond*

Scholarship Recipients

Hannah Arteta, *Student of the Year*

Hannah Arteta, *Delta Kappa Gamma Society Citizenship Award*

Israel Aguirre, Hunter Haro, Brianna Le, and Sarah Strathkoetter, *San Dimas Senior Citizens Club Scholarships*

Kenny Bullock, *Lordsburg Foundation Scholarship*

Brianna Le, *Legacy of Kindness Award*

Alyssa Peregrina & Deivy Martinez, *La Verne-San Dimas Educational Foundation Awards*

Steven Stratton-Pangilinan, *Bonita Unified Management Team Award*





Photos 1-3: Chaparral High School’s Class of 2016 gathered for Commencement Ceremonies in June. Student speakers and Principal Christine Black encouraged the graduates to carry lessons learned into their next season.

San Dimas High School

Three hundred and nine San Dimas Saints graduated high school on June 8, 2016. “The class of 2016 is full of high achieving students,” Principal Michael Kelly said.

“I will remember this as the class of seniors that had 154 students completing UC entrance requirements,” Kelly continued. “This is the class with 67 students maintaining a 3.5 GPA for all four years. This is the class with 45 students maintaining a 4.0 GPA for all four years. This is the class with over \$1,700,000 worth of scholarships. This is the class with seven students going to serve our country in the armed forces. This is the class with over 18,000 hours of service to their community. This is the class with a student with perfect attendance for all four years. This is the class with the CIF Champion 4x50 meter swim relay team. This is the class with the CIF girls high jump champion.”

Valedictorian Brittany Clarke (4.57 GPA and attending Yale in the fall) encouraged her fellow graduates to “dare to follow your dreams!” in her commencement address. One of three Salutatorians, Claudia Wong, told her classmates to “Go and conquer your future. It’s waiting for you.” Wong, along with fellow Salutatorians Sergio Licon and Daniella Vo made SDHS history by sharing the role among three students.

Class of 2016 Stats

83% of graduates will attend college.
38% met UC admission requirements.

67 students graduated with over a 3.5 GPA
45 students graduated with over a 4.0 GPA
During their years at SDHS, these students have won 31 league championships.
Graduate Ruby Brown will attend University of St Andrews in Scotland.



Photos 4-6: San Dimas High School graduates sing their Alma Mater and celebrate their achievements at the 2016 Commencement Ceremonies.

Bonita High School

On June 9, 2016, Bonita High School hosted its 112th Commencement Ceremony, graduating 454 students. Principal Derek Bub took this opportunity to thank the class of 2016 as they welcomed him with open arms and taught him what it means to be a BEARCAT. This graduating class not only continued the longstanding tradition of excellence in Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities but they set a new expectation for the classes that follow.

By the numbers:

158 graduates were awarded varsity letters this year

252 graduates (56 percent of the class) took at least one Advanced Placement (AP) course during their time in high school

97 percent of graduates plan to continue their education at the college level

19 students were inducted into the National Honor Society, which recognizes students with outstanding academic achievement, demonstrated leadership skills, and a record of significant community service

64 students earned a GPA of 4.0 or higher

68 students qualified for membership in the California Scholastic Federation by earning at least three A's and one B in their core academic subjects and complete

Salutatorian Noah Anderson took four honors classes and 12 AP classes and tests. He ran track and cross-country for four years and played varsity soccer his senior year. He was Bonita High School's Boys State representative and spent extensive hours interning at the City of Hope. He will be attending UCLA in the fall and studying molecular and cellular biology.

Valedictorian Peter Wang took four honors classes and 12 AP Classes and 14 AP tests. He found time to participate in track, cross-country, key club and the recycling club. His senior project was on the "Future and Necessity of Biomedical Engineering." He spent numerous hours interning at a medical research lab focusing on rare diseases. He will be attending UCLA in the fall and studying chemical and biomolecular engineering with an option of biomedical engineering.



Photos 7 & 8: Bonita High School Class of 2016 sends their caps flying at sunset at their June commencement ceremony.

Top Readers Honored by Bonita Board

At the June 15 Board of Education meeting, Bonita Unified School District's top readers were recognized for their achievement in reading based on Accelerated Reader points earned. Students, parents, and principals were invited to share in the celebration. Each elementary school recognized the top reader in grades K-2 and the top reader in grades 3-5, middle schools and Chaparral recognized their top point earners.

For several years, the District has been working toward the goal of 90 percent of all third graders reading at grade level. In addition to the Board of Education's recognition of top readers, each school uses many incentives and rewards to recognize the great work students are doing.

Following is the full list of top readers.

Name	School	Grade
Jess Barrera	Allen Ave	2
Shaina Barrera	Allen Ave	4
Brynn Fowler	Ekstrand	2
Praveer Rhyner	Ekstrand	3
Avery Jensen	Gladstone	2
Kami Martz	Gladstone	5
Katelyn Hartwig	Grace Miller	2
Mary Enriquez	Grace Miller	4
Faith Franco	La Verne Heights	1
Aubrey Bell	La Verne Heights	3
Megan Leung	Oak Mesa	2
Kaylee Leung	Oak Mesa	4
Rylee McCartney	Roynon	2
Chentong Zhentong	Roynon	5
Sara Khwaja	Shull	2
Michael Parris	Shull	4
Stefan Datwyler	Lone Hill	6
Avinash Chauhan	Ramona	7
Seth Waite	Ed Jones	10

San Dimas Saint Kenneth Bonser Wins a New Car for Perfect Attendance!

Out of thousands of students from San Dimas, Bonita, Chaparral, Glendora, and Whitcomb High Schools, rising senior Kenneth Bonser won a brand new 2016 Chevrolet Sonic from Glendora Chevrolet. In addition to having impeccable attendance habits, Bonser is a Mathlete, a Renaissance Award recipient, and an all around scholar with a 4.0 GPA.

Chevrolet's *Cool To Be in School* contest requires that not an absence, tardy or a doctor's appointment interrupt participation in classes during school for the whole year. San Dimas High had 84 students with perfect attendance this year.

"The number of students with perfect attendance has continued to grow because of the generosity of Glendora Chevrolet," Principal Michael Kelly said. "What high school student wouldn't want to win a car?"

Bonser said, "I was kind of surprised when I won. I wasn't really expecting that. I'm going to take the car with me to college, maybe UC Riverside."



Photo 9: San Dimas junior Kenneth Bonser won a 2016 Chevrolet Sonic with perfect attendance.

La Verne / San Dimas Educational Foundation Recognizes Students for Kindness, Perseverance and Achievement in Spite of Challenges

At the May Board of Education Meeting, the La Verne / San Dimas Educational Foundation recognized students from each school in the Bonita Unified School District for kindness, perseverance, and achievement.

2016 Perseverance Award Winners

The Perseverance Award is given to two students in grades three through eight at every elementary and middle school who have persevered through hardships in their lives. The foundation salutes the following students for their courage and admires their ability to continue in spite of challenges:

Aaliyah Carr, Aaron “Jesse” Duarte, Alontae King, Alyssa Peregrina, Amber Lopez, Amelia Marshall, Andrew Brumley, Andy Hernandez, Angel Cardona, Ayden Garcia, Baylee M. Smith, Caleb Rivera, Cambrie McCullion, Charles Porter, Chloe Boland-Araujo, Connor Williams, Crystal Urieta, Danielle Gallego, Danielle Vega, David Hernandez, December Swift, Deivy Umana-Martinez, Dominic Bartolotti, Elena Castaneda, Elizabeth Clark, Estrella Calvillo, Francisco Esquivel-Najera, Gage Ireland, Gargeya Smruti Ranjan, George Hanna, George Safieh, Gianna Grant, Hallie Mee, Haydn Ziepke, Isabelle Aguirre, Jasmine Salaiz, Jason Risco, Jessica Alderete, Jiali “Kally” Yuan, Jonathan Tabanera, Jordan Hoff, Joseph Castaneda, Joseph Sanchez, Joshua Zerbel, Judas Lopez, Kaelyss McConico, Kailyn Apodaca, Karah Casas, Katelyn Schrum, Kathryn O’Connell, Kayla Gonzales, Kobe Paddock, Kyler Paul, Lauren Esqueda, Leilla Grover, Leya Baroudi, Liam Deir, Lilliana Mendiola, Lindsay List, Madelynne Fetters, Marko Almario, Maryssa Newell, Maya Cruz, Michael Martinez, Miles Salenga, Moira Greenway, Morgan Scott, Nancy Jwaied, Nicholas Charette, Nicholas Rodriguez, Robert Ramsey, Samantha Moore, Sebastian Carrillo, Stephen Harris-Moran, Thomas Heiss, Triana Outzen, Troy Sandoval, Tyler Ellis, William Reese Bauman, Yamileth Lopez

2016 Acts of Kindness Awards

The Foundation awards two Acts of Kindness Awards per year in honor of former Board Member Ed Jones who gave much of his life to the schools in the Bonita community. From community nominations, the board selected Samantha Blanco, who just completed 5th grade at Ekstrand Elementary School, and Brianna Le, who graduated from Chaparral High School in June.

“Samantha’s service to others is astounding,” Coordinator of School Age Care Nancy Sifter said. “She walks for charities like Club 21 for children with Down Syndrome and Bridging the Gap for individuals who have experienced traumatic brain injuries. She donates her allowance to

support four children through Love Without Borders, Inc. She donates books to the West Covina Library and donates toys to the Salvation Army. She's also donated time at the local animal shelter. She is an amazing young person who is making a difference in many lives."

"Brianna not only worked extremely hard to reach her goal of graduating from high school, but she worked tirelessly helping her classmates reach that goal as well," Sifter said. "She encouraged them with her contagious positivity and numerous pep talks. She is a natural leader and her peers benefited from her exuberance."

2016 College Scholarships

The Ed Foundation's college scholarships are given to commend Bonita Unified high school students who have faced significant challenges, but succeeded in spite of them. Sixteen students from Bonita Unified high schools received scholarships from the Ed Foundation this year.

Bonita High School Scholarship Recipients:

Jessica Anthony, Moira Greenway, Jordan Hoff, Kobe Paddock, Jasmine Salaiz, Katelyn Schrum, and Crystal Urieta

Chaparral and Vista High School Scholarship Recipients: Deivy Martinez, Alyssa Peregrina, Jonathan Tabanera and Danielle Vega

San Dimas High School Scholarship Recipients: Joseph Castaneda, Elizabeth Clark, Francisco Esquivel-Najera, Kayla Gonzales, Kathryn O'Connell and Baylee Smith

Since 1983, the La Verne / Dimas Educational Foundation has been committed to enriching and enhancing educational opportunities for students facing personal adversity in the Bonita Unified School District. The Foundation's primary function is to recognize and reward students who have persevered and succeeded in school despite experiencing hardships in their lives.

The Foundation is led by president Alta Skinner and is comprised of community volunteers including parents, business owners, retirees, and District representatives. Funds are raised by generous donations given by District staff, community members, and businesses in the local community, and through the Ed Jones Memorial Golf Tournament held each spring.



Photos 10-11: Samantha Blanco and Briana Le accept their Acts of Kindness Awards from the La Verne / San Dimas Educational Foundation and Bonita Unified Board of Education.

Elementary School Libraries Remain Open Through the Summer

Elementary school libraries in the Bonita Unified School District will be open for the seventh summer in a row. Teachers have set new Accelerated Reader goals for each of their students to encourage them to continue to read over the summer.

The media clerks at each school have arranged their part time schedule to ensure that at least one District elementary school library is open each day of the week. Students, along with parents, can check out books from any of the libraries, read together in the library, and take Accelerated Reader quizzes.

“Build reading into your children’s summer activities,” Assistant Superintendent of Education Nanette Hall said. “Reading is a skill that has to be maintained just like athletic or musical skills. Practice makes perfect. Have students read anything that interests them...books, articles, recipes, instructions, menus, etc.”

Parents can track student progress year around by creating an account with Accelerated Reader’s Home Connect through the District’s website. Once registered, the system will send parents an email every time their student takes an Accelerated Reader test.

The summer library schedule is as follows:

School	Days	Times	Dates
Allen	Monday & Wednesday	12:00 – 2:00 PM	June 13 – July 13
Ekstrand	Tuesday	9:00 – 11:30 AM	June 14 – July 12
Gladstone	Monday	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	June 20 – August 8
Grace Miller	Friday	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	June 17 – August 12
La Verne Heights	Tuesday & Wednesday Wed: Family Reading Night	1:00 – 3:00 PM 6:00 – 7:30 PM	June 14 – July 27
Oak Mesa	Tuesday & Wednesday	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	June 14 – July 20
Roynon	Monday	12:30 PM – 4:00 PM	June 20 – August 1
Shull	Thursday	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	June 30 – August 4