

UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2017

Superintendent's Message

Staying the Course to Personalized Learning

Bonita Unified School District is committed to a culture of continuous learning. Remember learning how to ride a bike? Many of us fell down several times before we were able to take off and leave our training wheels behind. Learning from failures creates a mindset that allows us to handle any test and trials that come our way.

How does this relate to our journey to Personalized Learning? Inevitably, we will experience problems along the way, such as when the Internet goes down, a device breaks or there are software glitches, to name a few. However, problems are a part of the change process that allows us to demonstrate to others, including our students, what it means to persevere. Sometimes, the lesson of how to handle a mistake or a problem, is the lesson to be learned.

It is just as important to create a plan with strategies to ensure success. One strategy we continue to use is to provide differentiated professional learning for our teachers, co-educational and administrative staff members. Through differentiation, we can address the various concerns with Personalized Learning from understanding what the shift will mean for employees, to whether or not they will be successful with the change, and finally, to see how making the change will really make a difference to student learning. By doing this, we are able to, not only address their concerns, but also be able to motivate and support staff during transition.

Another strategy is to continue to build capacity within the school district. A school district is an integration of many systems. As we implement change, it is important that we recognize that a change in one area will affect another area. It is important to have a plan for assessing the intended and unintended results of change.

Over the next few months we will be seeking input on a variety of topics that affect Bonita Unified School District. Specifically, we need input on our Local Control Accountability Plan and our Future Readiness Plan. When you see these surveys, or if you have a chance to participate in the focus groups, I encourage you to please take a few minutes to give us your feedback. The following link will take you to these surveys: <http://do.bonita.k12.ca.us>

Sincerely,

Christina (Christy) Goennier, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Twitter: [@BUSD4kids](https://twitter.com/BUSD4kids)

District Offices Temporarily Move to Pomona

The Bonita Unified School District offices will be temporarily moving the current offices to undergo construction and modernization efforts as the final phase of the 2008 voter approved Measure AB. The exact location will be shared as soon as the rental agreements are secured.

The following offices will be moved to the new location on or before July 1, 2017: the Superintendent's Office, Business Services, Education Services, Student Services, Specialized Services, and Human Resources.

Departments currently housed in ancillary buildings on the District Office campus will not be moving: Facilities, Transportation, Computer Information Systems, Food Services, School Age Care, Curriculum and Instruction, and Educational Technology.

The displacement is expected to extend from 18-24 months while construction is in progress. More information will be communicated to the community in the coming months.

Bonita Unified School District Invites Stakeholders to Provide Input on 2017/2018 LCAP

The Bonita Unified School District invites students, parents, employees, and community members to attend the Stakeholder Input Meeting on March 21, 2017, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Lone Hill Middle School Multi-Purpose Room. Attendees may provide input on the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which is the District's three-year funding plan as mandated by the California Department of Education (CDE),

In addition, parents and community members are invited to complete a survey by February 10, 2017, to identify needs and provide feedback on priorities for spending resources for the 2017/2018 school year. The survey can be accessed on the District's website at <http://do.bonita.k12.ca.us>. Input received will guide the direction of spending in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

As mandated by the California Department of Education (CDE), Bonita Unified has created a three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) to show how they will use funds generated by the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The State's long-term goal for LCFF is to raise per pupil funding from one of the lowest amounts nationally to an average or above average rate over eight years. The State's goal is to incrementally increase school funding back to the levels allocated in 2007/2008.

LCFF is a performance-based funding model that requires districts to demonstrate progress in educating all students, with particular focus on students who are English learners (EL), eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meals (FRPM), and foster youth.

The State is redesigning an accountability system that focuses on these eight priority areas: Implement State Standards, Other Student Outcomes, Student Achievement, Parental Involvement, Student Engagement, School Climate, Course Access, and Basic Services. The Bonita Unified School District LCAP is written to address these eight areas.

Enrollment Dates for Bonita Unified School District

The Bonita Unified School District announces dates for Attendance Permits, Kindergarten and New Student Registration, and Open Enrollment. Applications for inter-district and intra-district attendance permits, as well as those that qualify for the Allen Bill will be accepted beginning February 13. New student and Kindergarten registration will open on March 1. Open Enrollment begins April 10.

Inter-district permits grant permission to enroll in a district outside of the student's home district, while intra-district permits grant enrollment in a same-district school other than the one closest to home, both for one year. The Allen Bill provides enrollment rights to students whose parents are employed within the BUSD boundaries, but who live elsewhere. Open Enrollment is an opportunity to permanently change a student's home school, whether within the zoned school district, or in another.

In order to register for kindergarten, students must turn five by September 1, 2017. Students who turn five between September 2, 2017, and December 1, 2017, are eligible to register for Transitional Kindergarten.

Call 909-971-8330, ext. 5321 or check the district website at <http://do.bonita.k12.ca.us> for more information about any of the registration options.

- Inter-district Attendance Permits: opens February 13, 2017
- Intra-district Attendance Permits: opens February 13, 2017
- Kindergarten & New Student Registration: opens March 1, 2017
- Open Enrollment for Intra-District and Inter-District: April 10 - May 9, 2017

La Verne / San Dimas Educational Foundation Invites Community Members to Join

The La Verne / San Dimas Educational Foundation (LVSDEF) is a non-profit organization committed to supporting and celebrating student success in the Bonita Unified School District (BUSD). The Foundation provides financial grants to both students and faculty to reward academic

achievement and further classroom teaching and is looking for additional members to join the Advisory Board.

Meetings occur on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM at the District Office located at 115 West Allen Avenue in San Dimas. The next four meetings are February 23, March 23, April 27, and May 25.

The LVSDEF Board includes Chairperson Alta Skinner, Nancy Sifter, Jamie Skinner-Moreno, Yvonne Pena, Vicky Maliszewski, Ann Sparks, Donna Martin, San Dimas Mayor Curt Morris, La Verne Councilperson Robin Carder, Debbie Grenier, Jody Grenier, Mitchell Crawford, Sue Johnson, Michelle Riddell, Matt Riddell, Jane Bruyninckx, and Vince Maliszewski.

The Advisory Board includes Erica Rodriguez, Teri Muse of Waste Management, BUSD Board Member Chuck Coyne, BUSD Parent Isabelle Huber, BUSD Board Member Diane Koach, Foundation Golf Fundraiser Co-Chair Chris Crum, BUSD teacher Bonnie Crum, and Foundation Golf Fundraiser Co-Chair Jennifer Jones.

Visit the Foundation's Website at www.lvsdef.com and if you would like to make a donation, please visit www.lvsdef.com/www/donations/.

Schools in the Spotlight

San Dimas High School

Cheer Coach Keyauna King: Finalist as Top Cheer Coach in California

San Dimas High School's cheer coach, Keyauna King is in the running for top cheer coach in California. King became the leader of the cheer program in 2012, and since then, she has built a team of champions on and off the mats.

"Keyauna is 100% committed to our school," Assistant Principal Rita Kear wrote. "I could not be prouder of her leadership on our campus."

Highlights from King's tenure as cheer coach include:

- 2017 USA Summit Regional Champions
- 2017 USA Brea Olinda Regional Champions
- Cheer Pro State Champions in 2014 and 2015
- Cheer Pro Best of the West Champions in 2015 and 2016
- USA National runner up 2014 and 2016
- USA National champion 2015
- 2015 1st place in every competition
- Cheer team visits elementary schools in the District for Red Ribbon Week and annual walk-a-thon fundraisers
- Cheer team completes over 1000 hours of community service

- Cheer team attends at least one athletic event of every team on campus and gives them a spirit gift.
- Cheer team attends all football games including those over Thanksgiving break
- Cheer team attends girls and boys basketball games away and home
- Cheer team attends wrestling home matches

“Coach K is a great role model who has taught me many lessons, not only involving cheer, but also lessons I will use throughout my life,” sophomore Jessica Youngs said. “San Dimas is blessed to have Coach K leading our Cheer team!”

Congratulations to Keyauna King and her squad!



Photo 1: Cheer Coach Keyauna King, nominated for top cheer coach in California, poses here with the 2015 Cheer Captains after winning the USA National Championship. From left to right: Keyauna King (Coach), Haley Service, Sage Morgan, Kristen Kerns, Megan David, Alyssa Baca (Asst. Coach).

#SDHSCollegeBound

Just before winter break, teachers, counselors, clerical, administrators and even the District Superintendent posted signs in the front yard of every student that passed an Advanced Placement (AP) exam taken in the fall. San Dimas HS has increased efforts surrounding AP performance and the number of students entering college after graduation. Here are a few statistics:

- AP Tests given at SDHS has increased from 518 in 2013 to 608 in 2016.
- Passing scores on AP Tests has increased from 179 in 2013 to 362 in 2016, or an increase of 35% passed to 59% passed.
- The number of students tested has grown from 238 in 2013 to 288 in 2016.
- The number of students that have passed all Cal State/UC A-G requirements has grown from 35% in 2012 to 49% in 2016.



Photo 3: Advanced Placement teachers Ruth Luevand, Sarah Linen and Robin Taylor place signs in the front yards of students who passed AP tests in 2016.

Positive Behavior/Restorative Justice

San Dimas HS is now in year three of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program implementation, which now includes a Code of Conduct, a Sequential Discipline Plan, and a Merit/Demerit system. Students are expected to be: Respectful, Responsible and Ready to learn. Students who are assigned demerits serve a traditional 25-minute detention, but students that receive merits are entered into a weekly drawing to win a prize. The program has received thousands of dollars in donated prizes to reward students for positive behavior. Parents of students that are assigned merits and/or demerits receive an email.

In the “Dining with the Dean” program, students are placed in the dean’s mentor program if they have a need for additional mentoring support. After six weeks of excellent behavior, the dean purchases lunch for the student. The mentoring helps the student to build relationships and to connect with the school. Periodically, the dean and a campus supervisor visit classrooms after first period has started. If all students were on time, the whole class is rewarded with candy. PBIS focuses on rewarding students for positive behavior instead of emphasizing attention for negative behavior.

San Dimas HS is the first school in the District to implement Restorative Justice. This practice has been used in lieu of suspensions in cases of fighting, profanity and defiance. Approximately 50 students and most of their families have participated in successful Restorative Justice meetings. To date, the school has not had any repeat offenders after participation in the restorative process.

“Our goal in discipline is to cultivate positive behavior,” Principal Michael Kelly said. “We believe that using restorative practices gives us the opportunity to teach students real life skills to own their mistakes, accept responsibility, restore the relationship(s) and change behavior.”

Since the implementation of PBIS, the school's suspension rates have dropped by 51% since 2012-13, giving them the lowest suspension rate of all of the secondary schools in the District. The school has had no in-house suspensions so far this school year. "We have a great deal to celebrate!" Kelly concluded.



Photo 2: Brittany Smith of San Dimas High School receives a Merit for positive behavior in line with the school's Code of Conduct. The Code is one tool in the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports system.

Oak Mesa Elementary School

Talent Show March 11

Oak Mesa's third annual Talent Show will be held on March 11, 2017 at the Bonita Center for the Arts. Community members are invited to attend as students showcase their talent. Performances will consist of singing, dancing, playing music, acting, comedy, or any talent the students might profess. Acts will last a maximum of three minutes with auditions taking place on February 15, 2017, at the school.

Family Fun Night

The Oak Mesa PTA hosted a Family Fun Night on December 9, 2016. Students enjoyed various crafts (like decorating cookies, coloring, making Ollie the Owls dressed as Santa), had their pictures taken with Santa, played carnival games, and enjoyed hot chocolate. Parents were able to do some holiday shopping as well.



Photo 4: Maddy Wehunt, a fifth grader at Oak Mesa Elementary School made her very own version of Ollie the Owl at the school’s Family Fun Night in December.

Band and Choir Concert

Oak Mesa’s first band and choir concerts of the year were held at the Bonita Center for the Arts in December. Both groups performed in a large combined band or choir with students from the four elementary schools in La Verne.

“Both band and choir performances were outstanding,” Principal Steven Patterson said. “The growth that they have made in half a year was seen by a packed house.”

Students Enjoy Science at Oak Mesa

The Cabrillo Aquarium visited Oak Mesa 2nd graders in December to teach them about the ocean, ocean life, and the importance of protecting our environment. Cabrillo Aquarium staff members provided a hands-on curriculum that bridged the learning that students have learned in their classrooms.



Photos 5 & 6: Sea creatures were on display as staff from the Cabrillo Aquarium taught second graders at Oak Mesa about the ocean and its amazing inhabitants.