



## Superintendent's Message



Dear Bonita Unified Community,

The first few months of 2024 have continued an upward trajectory for Bonita Unified, full of exciting opportunities for our students to showcase their knowledge and talents.

These accomplishments were on full display during our 2024 State of the District address in February, which brought together local officials, businesses, and community members to learn about the past successes and future goals of Bonita Unified School District.

The District's achievements far surpass what we were able to highlight to the community, as our students brought home even more accolades in their academic, athletic, and artistic endeavors during the last two months. These awards include a first-place finish in the California ProStart Cup, consecutive league championships in basketball, and selection in the Southern California Vocal Association's Junior High Honor Choir, to name a few.

At the same time, 13 of our educators were recognized for their commitment to classroom innovation and received mini-grants to fund new learning opportunities, a Bonita Unified alumna was drafted into the National Women's Soccer League, and our teachers and staff kept students engaged in their education through hands-on activities, friendly competitions, and field trips.

It is an honor to work in a District that has developed a culture of excellence, where everyone – from our youngest learners to our most experienced employees – is encouraged to strive for new levels of success and seek opportunities for growth. Thank you to our teachers, staff, families, volunteers, and community partners for your continued support of our District. I am eager to see what we will achieve together as we prepare every Bonita Unified student to live their purpose.

Sincerely,  
**Matt Wien**  
Superintendent

## District News

### Local Leaders Gather for 2024 BUSD State of the District Address



Bonita Unified School District students' achievements in their academic, athletic, artistic, and extracurricular endeavors took center stage during the 2024 State of the District address, held February 8 at the Bonita Center for the Arts.

Hosted in partnership with the La Verne and San Dimas Chambers of Commerce, the State of the District brought together nearly 200 local elected officials, representatives from businesses and community organizations, residents, parents, and District employees, who learned about the District's accomplishments in 2023 and its vision for the future.

[Read more.](#)



**WATCH NOW**  
**WATCH NOW**  
**WATCH NOW**

◀◀ 2024 STATE OF THE DISTRICT SHOWCASE VIDEO ▶▶



Check out our 2024 State of the District showcase video, “The Bonita Way” – an uplifting reflection on the academic and co-curricular programs, dedicated employees, and high-achieving students that make Bonita Unified an exceptional district! [Watch now.](#)

## **BUSD Teachers Receive Mini-Grants from La Verne, San Dimas Rotary Clubs**

Thirteen Bonita Unified educators will see their classroom projects come to life after receiving \$500 mini-grants from the Rotary Clubs of La Verne and San Dimas in January and February, continuing an annual tradition and longstanding partnership with the service organization to reward innovative learning initiatives in the District. The Rotary Club of La Verne awarded mini-grants to 10 educators at La Verne schools at the January 17 Board of Education meeting; the Rotary Club of San Dimas followed with mini-grants for three educators at San Dimas schools during the February 7 Board meeting.

Read more about the [La Verne](#) and [San Dimas](#) recipients and the projects that will be supported by the grants.



# EXCELLENCE in the **FOUR As**

At Bonita Unified, we emphasize the **four As**: **Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities**. Below are some recent examples of how BUSD students, teachers and staff are demonstrating excellence in these areas.

## ProStart Students Excel at California ProStart Cup, Advance to Nationals

Bonita Unified School District will be represented at the National ProStart Invitational for the second year in a row, following Bonita High School's success at the California ProStart Cup on February 21 and 22.

Bonita High School's culinary team "Chicks" punched their ticket to nationals after winning first place in the Culinary Cup at the state contest, impressing judges with a three-course meal of raviolo doppio, pan-seared elk tenderloin, and a layered mascarpone mousse.

San Dimas High School students also excelled at the ProStart Cup; students Gabriel Costa and Austin Garcia took first and third, respectively, in the "Dress Your Dog" competition and senior Christina Jones took first place in the Loaded Idaho Potato competition – both of which tasked competitors with creating inventive toppings for their respective items.

## ACADEMICS



## BUSD Students Tour General Atomics, Explore Internship Opportunities

On January 21, 30 Bonita Unified students took a field trip to General Atomics in Poway, which develops advanced technology solutions for government and commercial applications. Students toured the facility and experienced each stage of development – an experience that has inspired many of them to look into paid summer internships with the company.

# EXCELLENCE in the FOUR As

At Bonita Unified, we emphasize the **four As**: **Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities**. Below are some recent examples of how BUSD students, teachers and staff are demonstrating excellence in these areas.

## ATHLETICS



### Girls Basketball Teams Win Consecutive League Championships

The girls basketball teams at Bonita High School and San Dimas High School celebrated historic seasons in 2023–24, which concluded with league championships and CIF appearances. Bonita High School's team secured its sixth consecutive Palomares League championship, then advanced to round two of the CIF-SS Division 2AA championship.

San Dimas High School's team won its third consecutive Valle Vista League championship, becoming the first team in SDHS girls basketball program history to achieve an undefeated league record. The Lady Saints also concluded their season in the second round of play in the CIF-SS Division 1 tournament.

### San Dimas High School Alumna Drafted by Orlando Pride

San Dimas High School Class of 2022 graduate Ally Lemos was drafted by the Orlando Pride in the first round of the 2024 National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) Draft on January 12.

Ally graduated early from San Dimas High School in December 2021 and went on to have two stellar seasons with the UCLA women's soccer team, which included an NCAA Championship title in 2022, an ESPY Award nomination for "Best Play," and multiple selections for the U.S. 20-and-Under Women's Youth National Team. Ally is the fourth-youngest draftee in NWSL history.



# EXCELLENCE in the FOUR As

At Bonita Unified, we emphasize the **four As**: **Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities**. Below are some recent examples of how BUSD students, teachers and staff are demonstrating excellence in these areas.

## ARTS



### TK-12 Students Highlight Theatrical Talents in 'Mary Poppins'

More than 100 students, ranging from TK to 12th grade across nine Bonita Unified schools, showcased their musical and theatrical talents in the San Dimas High School Drama Club's production of "Mary Poppins," held February 9 to 11. The SDHS Drama Club stages one production each year that invites BUSD students across all grade levels to audition, providing a unique learning experience that brings together students of all ages and talent levels to collaborate on creating a successful and engaging show.

This year's captivating winter production featured performances of familiar favorites, including "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," "A Spoonful of Sugar," and "Let's Go Fly a Kite."

### Lone Hill Middle School, Bonita High Choir Students Selected for SCVA Junior Honor Choir

Four Lone Hill Middle School students were selected to perform with the Southern California Vocal Association (SCVA) Junior High Honor Choir, a prestigious group of approximately 90 vocalists from across Southern California.

The SCVA Junior High Honor Choir, which consists of students in grades six to nine selected by audition, will perform on May 4 at Portola High School in Irvine. This year's Lone Hill honorees – Cristian Figueroa, Julian Gonzalez, Layla Lopez, and Rachel Wu – mark the largest group of Lone Hill students selected in a year.

Six Bonita High School freshmen were also selected to perform in the SCVA Junior High Honor Choir this year: Harper Gaudart, Serenity Ng, Kennedy Salazar Nieves, Allison Shutts, Ava Sierra, and Bailey Zylstra. In total, 20 Bonita Unified students, from grades six to 12, were selected for SCVA Honor Choir this school year.



# EXCELLENCE in the FOUR As

At Bonita Unified, we emphasize the **four As**: **Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities**. Below are some recent examples of how BUSD students, teachers and staff are demonstrating excellence in these areas.

## ACTIVITIES



### Roynon Elementary Encourages Family Fun, Hosts Math Festival

Roynon Elementary School encouraged students and families to find the fun in mathematics during the school's Family Math Festival on January 31. Each year, Roynon hosts math activities in partnership with a math company, which sets up games centered around a theme. This year, the games focused on algebra. Throughout the school day, K-5 students paired up and engaged in differentiated activities, with help from parent volunteers and math intervention teachers. The Family Math Festival invited parents and family members to campus in the evening to participate in the fun and discover the joy of learning.

### Gladstone Elementary Student Triumphs at District Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Gladstone Elementary student Yuri Edelmaier on winning the annual District Spelling Bee on February 5! Grace Miller Elementary student Vihaan Ganesh took second place and Philip Wenborne from Ekstrand Elementary took third place. Edelmaier, who won a \$250 prize and a \$250 donation to her school's library, will represent Bonita Unified School District in a county-level spelling bee. [Watch the spelling bee on YouTube.](#)

