

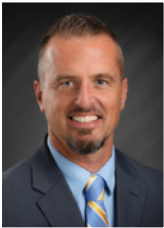


# BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

JULY & AUGUST 2023

## SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

### Superintendent's Message



Dear Bonita Unified  
Community,

The 2023-24 school year is off to a promising start. Our 10,000 students returned to campuses earlier this month, ready to tackle new challenges, learn new skills and build on the incredible successes of the previous school year.

Like our students, Bonita Unified teachers and staff are determined to make 2023-24 our best year yet. This academic year will bring exciting new learning opportunities, including expanded work-based learning experiences, robust resources to support student wellness and an ever-expanding array of enrichment activities.

These efforts are made possible in part by all the employees who worked tirelessly throughout the summer to prepare school sites for the new year, provide School Age Care to families, provide extended learning for students through summer school and more. Every employee in this District plays a valuable role in ensuring Bonita Unified's success, and the dedication to their work – even through the summer months – is noticed and appreciated.

As a reminder, there will be no school on Monday, Sept. 4 in observance of Labor Day. I hope you all enjoy the long weekend – and I look forward to working together this year to ensure every Bonita Unified student is well-supported and prepared to live their purpose.

Sincerely,  
**Matt Wien**  
Superintendent

### District News

## Bonita Unified Welcomes New Administrators



Both new and familiar faces stepped into administrative positions throughout the District ahead of the 2023-24 school year, bringing years of experience and dedication to supporting academic excellence and fostering equity in education.

Sean Casey is Chaparral-Vista High School's new principal, Nikole Burgess is the new assistant principal at Bonita High School, Kendra Lewis has joined Chaparral-Vista High School as its new dean of student services, Kaitlyn Trotter is Ramona Middle School's new assistant principal and Dr. Kim Lawe joined the District as the new Senior Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction. [Read more.](#)

## Bonita Unified's 2022-23 Report to the Community Is Out Now

The Bonita Unified 2022-23 Report to the Community was delivered in mailboxes across the cities of San Dimas and La Verne during the summer. This annual report showcases the people and programs that make Bonita Unified an exceptional district – from a Districtwide mental wellness initiative and award-winning schools to engaging career technical education programs and a team of alumni-turned-educators. To read this year's Report to the Community, [visit the BUSD website.](#)



# BUSD Students Return for 2023-24 School Year

Bonita Unified students returned to campuses for the 2023-24 school year on Aug. 21, full of excitement as they renewed old friendships, reviewed class schedules and met their new teachers.

Watch our official [Welcome Back video](#), in which Bonita Unified students share their thoughts on what they love about our teachers and staff!



# 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.

## ACADEMICS



## Bonita High Auto Tech Students Gain Skills in Citrus College Summer Academy

Bonita High School Auto Shop students looking to expand their skill set and gain more experience under the hood of a car participated in the Citrus College High School Summer Academy, a four-day seminar that gave them an opportunity to work with Citrus Automotive Technology

professors and explore its Medium and Heavy Diesel Truck Tech program.

More than a dozen Bonita High students attended the academy, offered for the first time this summer. Students received advanced instruction, watched demonstrations, then got hands-on lab experience with

cars and trucks as they worked toward Summer Academy certificates of completion issued by Citrus professors. Among the highlights were crankshaft balancer and engine dynamometer demonstrations, and two days working exclusively with diesel trucks.

[Read more.](#)

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## ATHLETICS



### San Dimas High Girls Volleyball Triumphs Over Bonita High

San Dimas High School's varsity girls volleyball is enjoying a great start to the season, following its victory over Bonita High School on Aug. 22.

This marks the varsity team's first win against Bonita High School in three years; meanwhile, the frosh and junior varsity Bearcat teams swept the Saints in their matches in that same week.

Congratulations to both the Lady Saints and Lady Bearcats on an exciting, well-played game full of good sportsmanship!

### Bonita High Golfer Honored by Local Officials for Excellence

Bonita High School senior Rilee Crosby was honored by both the La Verne City Council and California Rep. Grace Napolitano for qualifying for and competing in the United States Golf Association's Girls' Junior Championship, held in Colorado Springs, Colo. in July.

This is the second year Crosby – who has served as captain of Bonita High School's girls golf team for three years – has competed in the championship. Her skill on the course and dedication in the classroom have also earned her recognition as a 1st Team All-League member for three years in a row.



SAVE THE DATE FOR  
**SMUDGE POT**  
**2023**

**BONITA VS SAN DIMAS**

**7 P.M. SATURDAY, SEPT. 9**  
CITRUS COLLEGE STADIUM



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## San Dimas Dance Team Excels at USA Summer Camp

The San Dimas High School Dance Team spent a week learning new skills and developing their talents at the United Spirit Association summer dance camp in August.

Their hard work yielded various rewards and recognitions; Eva Yassine placed first at the Drill Down, Sofia Perez was named an All-American finalist, and the varsity team received a superior rating on their choreography to go routine, while junior varsity received an excellent rating. Both Perez and Yassine, along with four fellow Saints dancers, also received Super Sensational ribbons at the camp.



## Bonita High Band Students Give Standout Summer Camp Performances

Bonita High School offers a robust instrumental music program that includes marching band, drumline, color guard, jazz band, wind ensemble and symphonic band. Students can perform and perfect their talents at concerts and competitions throughout the year, as well as develop leadership and collaborative skills.

Bonita High School Marching Bearcats members Randy Gershman and Marcus Hallman earned plaques and ribbons for their success during the United Spirit Association's Drum Major Summer Camp, as well as an invitation to attend the 2024 London New Year's Day Parade.

## BUSD Campuses Welcome Families for Back to School Nights

Thousands of parents and families descended upon Bonita Unified's campuses in August for a series of Back to School Nights, which provided insight into the educational offerings at each school and the expectations for the 2023-24 school year.

From elementary to high school, Associated Student Body and leadership students were dressed in spirit gear and ready to assist families in navigating the campuses and connecting with teachers. Thank you to all the BUSD families who attended these informative events and to BUSD teachers and staff for giving the community a warm welcome to the school year!

