



## Superintendent's Message



Dear Bonita Unified Community,

These past two months featured standout moments for students across the District – from earning top accolades and titles in athletics and the arts to experiencing immersive and hands-on opportunities that further develop their skills.

Bonita High and San Dimas High student-athletes were celebrated for excelling on the court and in the pool while maintaining impressive grade point averages and serving as role models on their campuses. Our middle school bands and choirs were also recognized for their stellar performances and earning awards at recent competitions.

The successes of Bonita Unified students are made possible because of the dedicated educators, staff, administrators, families, and community partners who strive to provide the best opportunities for all learners.

From culinary students learning behind-the-scenes at Porto's Bakery and Café in West Covina to elementary students watching their ideas come to life through The Imagination Machine's "The Writing Show," Bonita Unified employees work to ensure students enjoy what they are learning.

I am grateful to the entire Bonita Unified community, as well as our local partners and organizations that continually support BUSD students and schools.

We saw this service in action during the District's annual Career and Community Resources Fair, where hundreds of students learned about employment and volunteer options. More than 50 local organizations, colleges, universities, and businesses shared countless resources with our families.

As we quickly approach the summer months, I want to remind everyone that each one of you serves an important role in the Bonita Unified community, and that is what makes this District exceptional.

Sincerely,

Matt Wien  
Superintendent

## District News

### Bonita Unified Names New Senior Director of Student Services

Oak Mesa Elementary School Principal Steven Patterson was announced as Bonita Unified's new Senior Director of Student Services during the March 6 Board of Education meeting. Patterson has 27 years of experience in education, including roles as a math teacher and administrator. He spent the last 10 years at Bonita Unified, where he served as assistant principal at Ramona Middle School before becoming the principal of Oak Mesa. Patterson is married with three children, including one son who is a Bonita High School graduate, and two younger children currently attending Bonita High School. His wife, Bobbi, is an elementary school teacher in a neighboring school district. Patterson will begin his new position on July 1, following the retirement of current director Mark Rodgers.





## BUSD Hosts Annual Career and Community Resources Fair

The San Dimas High School gym was abuzz with activity on March 18 as hundreds of Bonita Unified students and their families explored local mentorship, employment and volunteer opportunities during the District's annual Career and Community Resources Fair. The event brought together more than 50 local organizations, colleges and universities, and businesses to connect with students and families, provide valuable information on available resources, and get students excited about their future.

## BUSD Students Receive Delta Kappa Gamma Citizenship Awards

Three Bonita Unified high school students were recognized by the Beta Mu chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma in April, receiving citizenship awards and a small scholarship.

Each year, counselors from each school identify students who have contributed to their campus or the community and have grown in responsibility and confidence. During the annual awards presentation, students are introduced by a Beta Mu member who shares each student's accomplishments.

This year's recipients are Mila Mattson from San Dimas High School, Rylie Koscielski from Chaparral-Vista High School and Nathalie Leon from Bonita High School.



# 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 School Accounting Students Assist Community as Volunteer Tax Preparers

Residents needing help filing their tax returns have received IRS-certified help from Bonita High School accounting students free of cost for more than 20 years, thanks to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Through the guidance of Bonita High accounting teacher Madhu Sekhri, who is a Certified Public Accountant, students immerse themselves in the fundamentals and complexities of tax law, with Sekhri training them in basic and advanced skills using software, testing guidelines and tests provided by the IRS under the VITA program.

The Bonita High accounting career technical education pathway is a two-year program that includes beginning and advanced levels. Through an articulation agreement with Mt. San Antonio College, students can earn college credits for taking the first-year course, 2+2 Accounting. The second-year Advanced Accounting class is geared toward federal tax law and preparing VITA volunteers. [Read more.](#)



### Culinary Students Gain Industry Insight During Porto's Visit

A group of Bonita Unified culinary students visited Porto's Bakery and Cafe in West Covina on March 27, receiving a behind-the-scenes look at the facility and learning about the family business from Beatriz Porto herself.

Culinary instructors Nick and Laurie Brandler, who teach at San Dimas High and Bonita High, respectively, arrange field trips at a variety of culinary establishments that provide students with insight into the industry and provide the opportunity to network with professionals.

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## Students Explore Healthcare Careers at Casa Colina

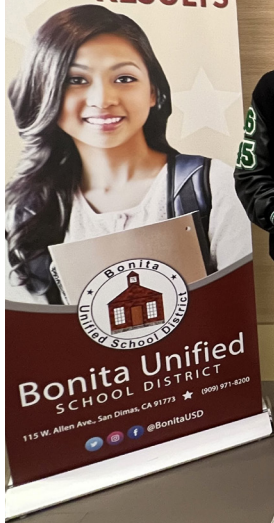
Forty Bonita Unified high school students visited Casa Colina on April 18, gaining insight into careers in respiratory therapy, research, pharmacy, health information management, physical therapy, audiology, nursing, and occupational therapy directly from industry professionals.

The field trip – part of a series offered this year in Bonita Unified’s effort to expand work-based learning opportunities for students – showcased healthcare careers that have varying levels of education and training and concluded with a tour of Casa Colina’s physical therapy, pediatric, surgery, and recovery facilities, as well as the intensive care unit and hospital. Bonita Unified’s partnership with Casa Colina is expanding to include a volunteer program that enables students to complete 100 hours of service within a department of their choice, gaining hands-on experience in healthcare.



## ATHLETICS

MASTERY  
FOCUS ON  
RESULTS



## Wrestlers Honored for League and CIF Titles

Bonita Unified recognized two CIF champion wrestlers, Bonita High junior Tristan Fernandez and San Dimas High junior Charlene Smith, during the March 6 Board of Education meeting.

Fernandez has won three consecutive Palomares League individual titles, where his record is a perfect 19-0, earned two consecutive CIF-SS Central Division individual titles, and has qualified for State the past two seasons. Smith has won three consecutive Valle Vista League individual titles and just captured her first CIF-SS Northern Division title this season. After a tremendous showing in the Masters championships, Smith participated in the State finals for the first time in 2024.

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## SDHS Seniors Honored in CIF-SS Academic Awards Program

San Dimas High School seniors Milana Mattson and Nicholas Tatevossian were recognized as the CIF Southern Section Athletes of the Year for SDHS, celebrating their excellence in the classroom, on the court, and in the pool.

Both Mattson, who plays tennis, and Tatevossian, who plays water polo and volleyball, maintained a 4.0 or higher over the past three years. They are among 405 student-athletes in the CIF-SS to receive the award as part of the CIF-SS 36th annual FORD Academic Awards program. To be eligible, students must be seniors who maintained at least a 3.5 GPA over the last three years, in addition to earning a letter in at least one varsity sport and participating in extracurricular activities. Mattson and Tatevossian also received \$500 scholarships from Nick the Greek, a restaurant in San Dimas, in recognition of their achievements.



## ARTS

## Middle School Bands and Choirs Excel at Heritage Festivals

Ramona Middle School's Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band and Troubadours each brought home gold awards for their exceptional performances at the WorldStrides San Diego Heritage Festival, held March 21 to 24.

The Vikings also received the Sweepstakes Award for earning the best overall scores combined in band and choir – beating out competing schools at all levels.

Lone Hill Middle School also took home numerous awards from the San Diego Heritage Festival held April 11 to 14, including Gold ratings for Choralairs, Jazz Band and Advanced Band, Best Overall Choral Group, and the Sweepstakes Award for the best combined band and choral scores, as well as Maestro Awards given to four soloists.



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## SDHS Dance Team Wins National Championship

The San Dimas High School Dance team was named the national champion in the Novelty/Musical Theater category at the United Spirit Association Dance Nationals, held in March in Anaheim, for their number "Oz."

The team had the privilege of ringing the bell in the SDHS quad to commemorate this accomplishment, a first for the dance program. The team also earned second place in the Large Jazz category.



ARTS

## ACTIVITIES



## Shull Elementary Students Celebrate Read Across America Week with Trivia

Shull Elementary fifth-graders put their reading and comprehension skills to the ultimate test during the school's annual Dr. Seuss trivia competition on March 5, sporting themed costumes and alight with team spirit.

The event has been held at Shull for more than 15 years and celebrates Read Across America Week, which highlights the importance of literacy for young learners. Three teams of five students gathered in the Shull Elementary cafeteria, joined by an enthusiastic audience of students and parents, to test their knowledge of all things Dr. Seuss and his world-famous stories.

The trivia questions spanned multiple aspects of Dr. Seuss' stories, including famous lines, characters and more from stories such as "Horton Hears a Who." Questions also covered more personal aspects of the author's life, such as his heritage. [Read more.](#)

# EXCELLENCE in the **FOUR As**

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## Roynon Students Become Innovators for ‘Invention Convention’

Roynon Elementary School continued its annual Invention Convention tradition this spring, in which fifth-grade students worked within engineering science standards to create original inventions or innovations.

All fifth-graders participate in the activity and vote on a winning invention from each class; those finalists then enter the “Shark Tank,” where they present their inventions and compete to be the overall winner. This year, Roynon’s top three contestants were:

- First place: Giselle Romero, “Spanglish”
- Second place: Emma Romero, “Pollution Plug”
- Third place: Vanessa Escutia, “SHEF – Self-housing environmentally friendly”



## ACTIVITIES

## Gladstone Students’ Stories Come Alive Through “The Imagination Machine”

Gladstone Elementary School students gasped, clapped and cheered with delight as they watched their stories come to life – and learned about the essential elements of storytelling – during a March 28 performance of “The Writing Show” by The Imagination Machine.

Formed in 1981 by a classroom teacher with a background in theater, The Imagination Machine selects stories written by students and performs them in the form of school assemblies, with the goal of encouraging students to explore their imagination through creative writing. The stories are fleshed out into complete productions featuring professional actors, music and costumes.

The Imagination Machine assemblies have been a treasured tradition at Gladstone Elementary for more than 20 years. This year, six stories were selected by The Imagination Machine and performed for Gladstone students, including three stories written collaboratively by entire classrooms and three written by individual students. [Read more.](#)

