



Superintendent's Message



Dear Bonita Unified Community,

Following a strong start to the school year, Bonita Unified students, teachers and staff have continued to strive for – and achieve – new levels of excellence this fall.

Over the last two months, students have begun to embrace all of the learning opportunities and extracurriculars that Bonita Unified has to offer. It is exciting to see our students explore their passions and find a sense of belonging on our campuses.

Already, our students and schools have earned accolades for their academic achievement. They have also captured titles and awards for their athletic and artistic talents – some of which are highlighted in this update. These successes are made possible by the dedication of our exemplary teachers and staff, as well as our outstanding community partners and parent volunteers.

As we head into the holiday season, I want to express my gratitude to our Board of Education, employees, families and volunteers. I am continually grateful for their unwavering support of our students and honored to work alongside them in ensuring that every Bonita Unified student is prepared to live their purpose.

Thank you all for your continued partnership in making Bonita Unified School District one of the top school districts in California. Together, we will continue to provide students with an empowering and rewarding education that is guided by our core values of equity, mastery, and a focus on results.

Sincerely,
Matt Wien
Interim Superintendent

District News

Board of Education Welcomes 2022-23 Student Representatives

Chaparral High School senior Natalie Bolanos, San Dimas High School senior Jaiden Miranda, and Bonita High School senior Grishm Sethi were welcomed by the Bonita Unified Board of Education as the student representatives for the 2022-23 school year.

Miranda, Bolanos and Sethi, who were sworn into their positions during the Oct. 12 Board meeting, will attend all regular monthly Board meetings during the school year, provide school reports and advocate for their peers. [Read more.](#)



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.



Shull Elementary Named 2022 National Blue Ribbon School

Shull Elementary School was designated as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School, celebrating its success in maintaining a high level of student achievement.

Shull Elementary is one of just 29 schools in California and 297 schools in the nation to receive the

designation this year. This is the second time Shull Elementary has been named a National Blue Ribbon School; it received its first designation in 2012.

Past and present Shull Elementary teachers and staff were honored at the Oct. 12 Board of Education

meeting, where they received the Bonita Purpose Award, certificates of recognition from Assemblymember Chris Holden, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, the San Dimas City Council, State Senator Anthony Portantino and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Member Kathryn Barger.

Chaparral-Vista Students Win 'Golden Ladle' in Chili Cook Off

Five budding chefs from Chaparral-Vista High School put their culinary skills to the test and faced off with schools across the District during the inaugural Bonita Council PTA Chili Cook Off in September.

Chaparral's Advanced Culinary students took home the top honors – and a golden ladle – after impressing judges with a chorizo four-bean chipotle chili topped with green onions, cilantro, vegan sour cream, pickled red onions and a sweet crouton.



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ACADEMICS



24 BUSD Students Honored by the College Board

The College Board has recognized 24 Bonita Unified students with National Recognition Awards, an honor given to underrepresented students placing in the top 10 percent of those taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test or placing in the top 10 percent of Advanced Placement exam scores among California Hispanic, African American or Indigenous students.

San Dimas High students receiving the National Hispanic Recognition Award (NHRA) include seniors Charley Aldana, Isabella Trejos, Judas Lopez, Kareem Jouzy, Lorenzo Romero, Vanessa Sandoval and Jaiden Miranda, as well as juniors Adiel Araiza, Ayanna Garcia and Kailey Tapia. Jaiden Miranda was additionally recognized with the College Board's National Indigenous Award (NIA).

Bonita High students receiving the NHRA award are seniors Andrea Torres, Brianna Lopez, Katelyn Roney, Katherine Mora, Nathaniel Gonzalez, Riley Martinez, and Vicente Marroquin, as well as juniors Audrey Granger, Danielle Napoles, Isaac Gutierrez, Julien Barajas, Nadia Cole-Gutierrez, and Rita Ochoa. Bonita High senior Wonders Eze received the National African American Recognition Award (NAARA). [Read more.](#)

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ATHLETICS

BUSD Community Celebrates 50th Smudge Pot Game

Bonita and San Dimas high schools faced off on the football field on Sept. 10 for the annual Smudge Pot game - one of the most highly anticipated athletic events of the year.

The 2022 game marked the 50th anniversary of this beloved District tradition, and the Bonita Bearcats emerged as this year's champions. Watch highlights of the 2022 Smudge Pot on the [BUSD YouTube channel](#).



SDHS Volleyball Captures League Title

The San Dimas High School girls volleyball team captured the Valle Vista League championship following its victory over Northview High School on Oct. 13. This is the team's fifth consecutive league title under the direction of coach Diane Chiappone. Way to go, Saints!

Bonita High Golfers Named All-League for Third Year

Bonita High School varsity golfers Rilee Crosby and Jessica Xiao competed in the Palomares League Finals and earned 1st Team All-League honors for the third year in a row. In their last league match of the season, Xiao tied Crosby for the lowest score of the year at an even par 36. Xiao and Crosby both went on to represent the BHS golf team at CIF.



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ARTS

Lone Hill Students Perform in SDHS Homecoming Parade

Students from Lone Hill Middle School's dance team and band program showcased their creative talents to the community as they marched in the San Dimas High School homecoming parade, held Oct. 14. Lone Hill dance students displayed school spirit as they waved their pom-poms and danced along the parade route to the musical stylings of Lone Hill's band students, who entertained the community with lively music as they marched in unison through downtown San Dimas.

High School Choirs Serenade Community in Fall Concerts

Bonita and San Dimas high schools held their annual fall choral concerts in October, delighting a full house of attendees at the Bonita Center for the Arts with a wide selection of musical performances that included the National Anthem, "La Llorona," "Hopelessly Devoted to You," "Sally's Song" from the movie "The Nightmare Before Christmas," "Sh-Boom" by The Chords and more.



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Allen Avenue Students Celebrate National Walk to School Day

Joined by teachers, staff and parents, Allen Avenue Elementary students participated in National Walk to School Day on Oct. 5, which aims to raise awareness and support for the health, community and environmental benefits of regularly walking or biking to school. Some students donned helmets and traveled to school on decorated scooters or bicycles, while others walked alongside their friends and families.



ACTIVITIES



PTAs Bubble Runs Raise Money for School Programs

Bedecked in matching shirts, Ekstrand Elementary students laughed, joined hands with their friends and raced around a course as bubbles and lively music filled the air during the PTA-hosted Bubble Run on Oct. 5.

Gladstone, La Verne Heights and Shull elementary schools also held Bubble Runs in October, providing students with a day of activity with their peers that helped raise thousands of dollars to support a variety of school programs.

Ramona Middle School Hosts Fun-Filled Fall Festival

Ramona Middle School students, families and staff gathered for an evening of bonding during the school's first-ever Fall Festival on Oct. 14. Attendees donned Halloween costumes and glowstick bracelets, danced along to lively music, played games and enjoyed a variety of concessions as they helped raise funds to support ASB and student activities.

