



Bonita Unified

SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sept. 23, 2022

CONTACT: Lauren Creiman

(909) 833-9853

Bonita Unified Elementary School Named 2022 National Blue Ribbon School

SAN DIMAS/LA VERNE – Shull Elementary School has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School, celebrating its exceptional efforts to close the opportunity gap and maintain a high level of student achievement.

Shull Elementary is one of just 29 schools in California 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.

“This is a tremendous honor for our school and for Bonita Unified,” Principal Adam Eslami said. “Shull’s staff works above and beyond to ensure that every student gets connected to the resources they need to be more successful.”

Shull Elementary was recognized for its family-centered approach, which features strong parent-guardian engagement, dedicated teachers who work hard to create memorable activities for their students, constant lines of communication among its stakeholders, and a volunteer spirit embraced by teachers and parents alike. Students stay engaged through a combination of leadership and recreational activities like weekly flag salute assemblies and “Fun Friday” events.

Since Shull Elementary won its first Blue Ribbon in 2012, it has continued to set a high bar for reading performance. Shull was the first Bonita Unified school to use the Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics and Sight Words (SIPPS) program in its classrooms. Now, SIPPS is used in eight schools throughout the District, and Bonita Unified was recognized in 2021 by the California Reading Coalition as the No. 1 performing school district for socioeconomically disadvantaged Hispanic California students on state reading scores.

“Congratulations to Shull Elementary for being recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for its innovative practices and commitment to learning,” Interim Superintendent Matt Wien said. “With its dedicated administrators, teachers and staff, Shull has been a model for success throughout Bonita Unified.”

Shull Elementary takes great care to initiate essential skills and character traits at the earliest stages of a student’s development. Shull’s focus on reading comprehension for K-3 students has paid dividends, with nearly 90% of third-grade students reading at grade level. K-3 students also participate in the school’s “We Care for Character” program, which promotes social-emotional growth and rewards students for displaying responsibility, trustworthiness and a caring attitude.

Shull uses a direct instruction approach to lesson planning, with all its teachers having received professional development training in the Total Educational Systems Support program, which simplifies the teaching process and focuses on establishing foundational skills. Nearly two-thirds of Shull’s teachers hold advanced degrees, and the entire faculty is qualified to teach English language learners.

MORE



**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

Chuck Coyne, President
Glenn Creiman, Vice President

Greg Palatto, Clerk
Jim Elliot, Member

Derek Bahmanou, Member
Matt Wien, Interim Superintendent



Bonita Unified

SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

Shull Elementary has a robust academic support network, implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Supports to identify struggling learners early and quickly. Shull has 1.5 English language arts intervention teachers, six paraeducators for primary support, and one math intervention teacher to support students performing below grade level.

Parents and community volunteers give approximately 7,000 hours of service to Shull classrooms each year and donate funds to support key programs. The Shull PTA raised more than \$45,000 in the last year to support movie nights, parent-child breakfasts, arts and craft nights, athletic fundraisers and seasonal carnivals and festivals.

Twice a year, Shull students participate in a Panorama School Survey of Academic and Social-Emotional Learning Competency. Results show that 85% of Shull students feel supported by adults at school and that Shull teachers are committed to increasing student achievement.

"We are thrilled to see Shull recognized again for being a forward-thinking, proactive school that puts students and families first," Board President Chuck Coyne said. "Many of our schools have adapted their successful practices, so in many ways, Shull's Blue Ribbon designation is a reflection of the high-quality education that is available across the District."

PHOTO:

BUSD_SHULL: Shull Elementary School has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School, one of just 29 California schools to receive the honor.

###



BOARD OF
EDUCATION

Chuck Coyne, President
Glenn Creiman, Vice President

Greg Palatto, Clerk
Jim Elliot, Member

Derek Bahmanou, Member
Matt Wien, Interim Superintendent