



# F O N T A N A U N I F I E D

# FORWARD

## Newsletter

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fontana Unified School District Families,

As we step into spring, I wanted to take a moment to extend my warmest greetings and share some important updates with you. As we enter the final stretch of the school year, our focus remains steadfast on supporting our students academically, emotionally, and socially. This responsibility begins with the obligation of ensuring that students and staff feel physically and emotionally safe on campus.

**Supporting Students for Testing:** As we approach the season of standardized testing, I want to reassure you that our dedicated team of educators is committed to providing the necessary support and resources to help our students excel. Standardized tests are valuable tools that provide insights into our students' progress and help us tailor our educational strategies to meet their needs effectively. To ensure our students feel confident and prepared, we encourage parents and guardians to engage in open communication with their children about the upcoming tests. Encouragement, reassurance, and a positive attitude towards testing can significantly impact a student's mindset and performance. Additionally, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or school administration if you have any questions or concerns regarding testing procedures or accommodations.

**Gearing Up for Spring Break:** As we gear up for our much-anticipated spring break (March 18 – 22), I encourage our families to take this opportunity to unwind, recharge, and spend quality time together. Use this time to create lasting memories with your loved ones by enjoying some of your favorite hobbies and activities or creating new ones!

**Reflecting on the Year's Journey:** As we reflect on the journey we have embarked on this school year, I am incredibly proud of our students' resilience, perseverance, and dedication to their academic pursuits. Together, we have overcome challenges, celebrated achievements, and grown stronger as a community. As we approach the third quarter, let us remain focused on our shared goal of empowering every student to reach their full potential. With your continued support and collaboration, I have no doubt that we will finish the school year on a high note, celebrating the continual successes and milestones of our students. In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your unwavering support and partnership throughout this school year. Together, we make a difference in the lives of our students, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve this incredible community.

Wishing you a joyful and rejuvenating spring break!

Miki R. Inbody  
Superintendent  
#IBelieveInFUSD

## **AROUND CAMPUS**

### **FONTANA UNIFIED STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE COLLEGE LIFE DURING DISTRICT'S FIRST-EVER HBCU CAMPUS TOUR**



Fontana Unified scholars eager to learn about college life and the role that Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) have played in ensuring equity in education for underrepresented students, are preparing to take the trip of a lifetime when they join the District's inaugural HBCU Campus Tour.

More than 100 students have signed up to join the six-day chaperoned tour, which is scheduled for March 17-22 and will visit Georgia, Alabama, Florida and historic campuses of schools like Morehouse College, Alabama State, Bethune-Cookman University and more. Fontana Unified, which is partnering with On A Mission Youth Travel to organize the tour, will cover the costs of airfare, lodging and meals. During the visits, students will explore the origins of the institutions, learn their unique histories, tour the campuses, engage with college students and gain valuable insights into the academic paths available at HBCUs.



### **KAISER HIGH THEATRE STUDENTS EARN HONORS AT STATE FESTIVAL WITH SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCE**



Henry J. Kaiser High School theatre students qualified for the prestigious California Educational Theatre Association's (CETA) State Festival and walked away with several awards for their production of William Shakespeare's "Cymbeline" on January 13. Kaiser's fall play first stunned judges at the Regional CETA Festival in December, resulting in a first place win out of 16 schools and a spot in the State Festival. This is Kaiser High School's 13th year competing and their first top win at the regional level. Kaiser High's theatre program hauled in several accolades at the CETA State Festival, including a scholarship to attend the Stand Up for the Arts event in Sacramento on April 30. Individually,

Kaiser High student Jami Jamison took first overall in acting for her role of Imogen and Billy Bolhman won the Phil Reed Movement Award for his role at Cloten. Jamison, Kenney Plummer and David Huyan were also presented with Top Adjudicator Awards, while Leah Young and Paula Contreras won Directors Awards with superior ratings.



### **SOUTHRIDGE TECH MATH TEACHER NAMED CLE REGION 10 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP**



Southridge Tech Middle School seventh-grade math teacher Linh Nguyen-Carlyle draws upon her own life experiences and challenges to connect with her students, making an impact in the classroom that earned her recognition as the California League of Educators (CLE) Region 10 Educator of the Year Runner-Up. Nguyen-Carlyle arrived in Southern California as a young Vietnamese immigrant with few English language skills. As she struggled to find her footing in school, a high school math

teacher recommended she enroll in an honors class, which set her on an educational journey that led to her becoming a first-generation college-goer. Now in her ninth year at Southridge Tech, Nguyen-Carlyle uses her background as an English learner to help motivate

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(continued) and challenge her students. In all her lessons, she strives to establish empathy with her students and assure them there is nothing standing in the way of attaining their goals and excelling academically. She was one of 10 CLE finalists from across the Riverside, Inyo, Mono and San Bernardino counties honored at this year's Region 10 awards ceremony.



## ALMOND ELEMENTARY PROMOTES LITERACY THROUGH LITTLE FREE LIBRARY PROGRAM



Almond Elementary School is asking its scholars to “take a book and share a book” as it kicks off its new Little Free Library program, designed to increase access to literature and promote a reading culture beyond the classroom and into the Almond Elementary community. Almond installed a wooden box shaped like a little house in the front of the school this school year and stocked it with library books, inviting students to borrow and return books at any time. The school’s goal is to provide Little Free Libraries throughout the Almond community by encouraging families to post little libraries on their front lawns. Library technician Narallely Bonilla, who is in her first year at the school, brought the Little Free Library program to Almond Elementary to start a literacy initiative that channels the school’s love of learning and commitment to inspiring lifelong readers. The school’s goal is to provide Little Free

Libraries throughout the Almond community by encouraging families to post little libraries on their front lawns. Bonilla modeled the Almond Little Free Library program after a similar program that has been a success at Dolores Huerta International Academy (DHIA), which installed a free library at their campus last year.



## FONTANA UNIFIED HOLDS BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION



Fontana Unified School District and the District’s African American Parent Advisory Council hosted a Black History Month Celebration: “Harmony in Heritage and Knowledge” at Fontana High School on February 3. The event honored the rich contributions of African and African-American heritage and included live performances, traditional dancing, arts and crafts and exhibits. The celebration began with a “Black Excellence Awards Ceremony” in Fontana High’s theater and concluded with a “Black History Celebration Fair” in the school’s quad.





## FONTANA UNIFIED VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS KICKSTART THEATER SEASON WITH TWO PRODUCTIONS



Fontana Unified's Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Program opened its theater season with live musical productions of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" in December and Harry Potter satire "Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic" in February. The FUSD Theater Conservatory was established so that young students could discover the joys of theater and work as actors in a professional show, as well as get involved in career technical education (CTE) projects at an early age. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" brought together the talents of Canyon Crest Elementary School, Dorothy Grant Innovations Academy and Wayne Ruble Middle School students at the historic California Theater for the Performing Arts in San Bernardino. "Puffs" served as the District theater program's final production of the



2023-24 school year and ran from February 1-2 at the California Theater. It featured A.B. Miller High School drama students, as well as students from other District high schools.

## FONTANA HIGH CTE INSTRUCTOR HONORED WITH CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION AWARD



Fontana High School career technical education (CTE) instructor Lamar Hanger has been selected for the Associated General Contractors of California's (AGC) Construction Education Friend Award. He was presented with the award for his dedication and enthusiasm in guiding the next generation of homebuilders at the AGC Installation and Awards Gala on February 2 in San Francisco.

When Hanger arrived on FOHI's campus at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year to lead the school's building and construction pathway, he had a vision to transform the traditional woodshop into a modern commercial and residential construction lab while conducting his classroom as a job site. In less than three years, Hanger's passion for teaching – and passing on his knowledge of the construction industry – has nearly tripled the number of students in Fontana High's Career Connections program, a CTE pathway in general construction.



## FUN FACT



Did you know Fontana Adult School (FAS) offers classes at five satellite campuses: Beech Avenue, Oleander and Randall Pepper Elementary and Henry J. Kaiser and Summit High schools?

FAS offers a variety of courses and programs in English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship preparation, high school diploma and eight career education pathways. Visit [fusd.net/adultschool](https://fusd.net/adultschool) to learn more about everything that FAS has to offer.