



FONTANA UNIFIED FORWARD Newsletter

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fontana Unified Families,

As we embark on the second semester of the school year, I want to extend my warmest greetings to each one of you. The first semester was filled with accomplishments, growth, and valuable experiences for our students, faculty, and staff. Now, as we embrace the opportunities that the coming months bring, I would like to share a few thoughts and encourage a collective effort towards a successful and fulfilling second half of the academic year.

Attendance is Important! Regular attendance is a cornerstone of academic success. Every day in the classroom matters, and the knowledge gained during each session contributes to a student's

overall understanding of the subject matter. Parents, please reinforce the significance of consistent attendance with your children and help create an environment that promotes punctuality and engagement in their studies.

Work Hard to Increase Academic Achievement! The second semester provides a fresh start for students to set academic goals and work towards achieving them. I encourage students to be proactive in seeking support from teachers, engaging in study groups, and taking advantage of resources available to enhance their learning experience. A strong work ethic and dedication to academics will undoubtedly pave the way for success both in and out of the classroom.

Make Mental Health and Wellness a Priority! Balancing the demands of school, extracurricular activities, and personal life can be challenging. It's crucial for students to prioritize their mental health and well-being. Encourage open conversations at home, and let your children know that seeking support is a sign of strength. Our schools are committed to fostering an environment that supports the holistic development of each student, and mental health is an integral part of that journey.

Join Us for Coffee with the Community! We are excited to invite all parents to our upcoming "Coffee with the Community" events. These gatherings provide an opportunity for parents to connect, share insights, and engage in meaningful conversations about our shared commitment to the success of our students. Your presence and input are highly valued, and we look forward to strengthening our community bonds.

In closing, let's approach the second semester with enthusiasm, determination, and a shared commitment to the success and well-being of our students. Together, we can create an environment that fosters academic achievement, personal growth, and a strong sense of community.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish each of you a fantastic second semester!

Warm regards,

Miki R. Inbody
Superintendent
#IBelieveInFUSD

AROUND CAMPUS

FUSD CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF DYNAMIC 'INNOVATION EMPIRE' LEARNING SPACE



Fontana Unified School District commemorated the grand opening of its one-of-a-kind Innovation Empire with a pair of celebrations on November 7 and 9 that included tours of the dynamic learning environment stocked with tools and technology to inspire curiosity, experimentation and entrepreneurship for District students of all ages. The Innovation Empire is a creative hub where Fontana Unified students can take a project from idea to reality. The two-building complex includes a Makerspace and collaborative space that are designed to serve as a hub for students to get hands-on experience and training in machine and design software, robotics, programming and entrepreneurship. The Makerspace is stocked with a fleet of state-of-the-art 3D, laser and ultra-violet printers, a water cutter and CNC mill that offer a number of possibilities, from theatre prop production and laser engraving to metal part fabrication and 3D object re-creation.

FONTANA UNIFIED BREAKS GROUND ON NEW NORTH END MIDDLE SCHOOL, SET TO OPEN IN AUGUST 2026



Members of the Fontana Unified community gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction on a new 150,000-square-foot District middle school in the north end of Fontana on November 14. Project construction on the new school, which will accommodate up to 1,200 students, at Citrus Avenue and Casa Grande Avenue is set to begin in January 2024 with an expected completion date of August 2026. The project will be partially funded by the Measure C Bond passed by District voters in November 2006. Fontana Unified's new middle school will help prevent overcrowding and ensure all students have access to small class sizes and high-quality academic instruction as the District strives to meet the growing needs of Fontana. The school is designed as a three-in-one facility, serving as a school, community engagement hub and gallery space that honors the history of Fontana and displays innovative student projects that offer solutions to real-world problems.

FOUR HIGH SCHOOLS SECURE ADVANCED PLACEMENT HONORS FOR PROMOTING COLLEGE READINESS

Four Fontana Unified high schools were recognized by the College Board as Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll schools, highlighting the District's commitment to fostering a college-going culture across its campuses and providing opportunities for students to earn college credit and maximize college readiness, based on data compiled from the schools' Class of 2023 graduates. Summit High School earned a Silver Award, while Fontana, A.B Miller and Henry J. Kaiser high schools were honored with Bronze Awards. Summit, Fontana and Kaiser also earned the AP Access Award, which recognizes the schools for providing underrepresented students access to advanced coursework.



CHAPARRAL ACADEMY OF TECHNOLOGY EARNS THREE HONORS FOR INTEGRATION OF C-STEM EDUCATION



Chaparral Academy of Technology's excellence in implementing innovative programming to close achievement gaps in the world of Computers, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (C-STEM) has earned the school three C-STEM Awards, presented at the 13th annual C-STEM Conference at UC Davis this fall. This marks the fifth year in a row Fontana Unified School District educators have been honored by the UC Davis C-STEM Center. Chaparral Academy was honored as a C-STEM Distinguished School, while Principal Dr. Andrea McClain and teacher Alexandra Cruz were named the C-STEM Administrator and Teacher of the Year, respectively. All three awards reflect Chaparral Academy's exceptional contributions to providing students with equitable access to integrated computing and STEM education, preparing and inspiring students to pursue further studies and careers in C-STEM fields.

SOUTHRIDGE TECH MIDDLE SCHOOL REDESIGNATED AS MICROSOFT SHOWCASE SCHOOL



Southridge Tech Middle School has been redesignated as a Microsoft Showcase School, reaffirming the school's commitment to providing its students with access to digital platforms and bridging the technology gap. Southridge Tech is one of just three schools in California and 30 schools across the United States to receive the designation in 2023, joining a global network of schools from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, and Australia. Southridge Tech's implementation of Microsoft programs and technologies have raised the bar for student achievement at the school. Online learning has been incorporated successfully into classroom lessons through blended learning, which combines traditional learning and technology, and has supported a wide range of student groups, including English learners, special education and gifted and talented education.

FOUR FONTANA UNIFIED STUDENTS SELECTED TO JOIN 2024 TOURNAMENT OF ROSES HONOR BAND



Four Fontana Unified high school students have distinguished themselves as some of the best high school musicians across Southern California, earning spots in Pasadena City College's 2024 Tournament of Roses Honor Band. Henry J. Kaiser High School senior David Mireles (marching snare drum), sophomore Liliana Lobo (euphonium) and Jurupa Hills High School senior Antonio De La Torre (baritone sax) and sophomore Diego Muro (clarinet) all marched with the Tournament of Roses Honor Band in the 135th edition of the iconic Rose Parade on New Year's Day. These selections uphold a District tradition at the prestigious event, as numerous FUSD students have previously participated in the Tournament of Roses Parade, including Kaiser Band Director Roberto Ronquillo and Jurupa Hills Band Director Bill Borjan when they were students at A.B. Miller and Fontana high schools, respectively. The entire Kaiser High Catamount Pride Band and Color Guard also performed at the Rose Parade in 2019 under former band director Anthony Allmond.

FONTANA HIGH NAMES SPORTS FIELD AFTER LEGENDARY COACH DICK BRUICH



Retired Fontana Unified School District coaching legend Dick Bruich stepped out under Friday night lights once again, as Fontana High School hosted a dedication ceremony to name its newly renovated sports field to Dick Bruich Field before Fontana High's final regular-season football game this fall. Bruich left an indelible mark on Fontana Unified during his 20-plus year career coaching in the District. He coached Fontana High football from 1977 to 1998 and also led the softball and girls basketball teams for a time. Bruich guided the Steelers to a national championship, two state championships and two CIF titles, and went on to coach at Henry J. Kaiser High School from 1999 to 2009, where he won a state championship and two more CIF titles. Fontana High football's home field underwent a renovation that included installation of a new track, turf, lighting system, goalposts, snackbar and updated home restrooms at Steeler Stadium.

FUN FACT



Did you know two Fontana Unified School District high schools won CIF Southern Section division championships this fall? Jurupa Hills High School football advanced to the CIF Division 4-AA State Championship Bowl Game after it won both the CIF-SS Division 8 and CIF State Division 4-AA Southern California Regional titles with wins over Charter Oak (21-14) and Torres (41-14) on November 24 and December 1, respectively. Summit High won the CIF-SS Division 6 championship with a dominant 13-3 win over Anaheim on November 11.

Good luck to all the winter sports athletes!