

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Anaheim Union High School District



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February 2024

AUHSD + A.I.

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ANAHEIM UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Emotional Intelligence and AI Together Can Help Lessen the Student Mental Health Crisis



Michael B. Matsuda
Superintendent

Alarmingly, there are new reports that 6 out of 10 youth are feeling isolated and lonely and that suicidal ideation is on a steep rise across America. The integration of innovative teaching methodologies and cutting-edge research on adolescent mental health has become imperative. There is a convergence of two influential educational paradigms enabled by new developments in AI to help integrate innovative teaching and focus on adolescent mental health at the same time. This new “system” integrates the work of neuroscientist Mary Helen Immordino-Yang’s on conditions for learning connected to emotions and belonging.

AUHSD is trying to merge innovative teaching and adolescent mental health. It is focusing on the “5 Cs,” which are communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and compassion in students while supporting that mission with the help of rapidly developing AI learning tools. With sophisticated learning platforms, aligned leadership, and support for teachers, AUHSD is at the stage where it can capture how and why the system it has developed with students, teachers, and the wider community works by focusing on whole-child instruction—culminating in creating whole adults ready to fully participate in a healthy democratic society.

Emotional intelligence (EQ) is an indispensable life skill that empowers individuals to recognize, understand, manage, and harness their emotions effectively, all while remaining attuned to the emotions of others. Immordino-Yang and other neuroscientists have found that emotionally engaged students are more likely to retain information and apply critical-thinking skills effectively. Thus, effective teaching strategies should cultivate students’ emotional states to optimize the learning experience.

AI holds the potential to deepen our understanding of these neural processes, which can in turn inform pedagogical strategies.

AUHSD’s Approach to Whole-Child Education

AUHSD—a district with a high percentage of poverty—is dedicated to fostering the 5 Cs in students, to ensure that we are well-prepared for the challenges of the modern world. The district does not “teach to the test”—there are no test benchmarks of state interim assessments—yet all academic metrics have risen well beyond what demography would predict.

These district drivers align with the development of emotional intelligence and well-being through classroom pedagogy:

Communication: Effective communication is at the heart of emotional intelligence. By teaching students to express their work both orally and in writing, educators can create an emotionally supportive learning environment. Communication

is not just about expressing ideas but also seeing the impact of these ideas on others.

Collaboration: Collaborative projects offer students the opportunity to develop their ability to manage projects as leaders. Working in teams necessitates empathy, active listening, and conflict-resolution skills.

Critical Thinking: It encompasses not only the analysis of information but also the application of emotional intelligence in this process. Students can be taught to think critically about the emotional impact of their decisions and the ethical considerations associated with their actions in a digitally connected world.

Creativity: Encouraging students to explore their creative potential not only enhances their artistic and innovative abilities but also fosters emotional expression.

Compassion: The district places a strong emphasis on compassion, a key element of emotional intelligence. It encourages students to understand the emotions and perspectives of others.

Artificial Intelligence

Through the co-development of AI tools in partnership with a nonprofit tech company called eKadence and the University of California, Irvine, AUHSD aims to first help teachers develop more holistic- and applied-learning experiences and lesson plans designed to support student agency and purpose. These practices include developing ePortfolios, performance task assessments, and capstones assisted by AI tools that encourage students to reflect on what they’ve learned, whereby students make connections between their education and issues that are important to them personally.

This integration of AI in supporting whole-child pedagogy, grounded in the principles of emotional intelligence and well-being, offers a beacon of hope in the face of the challenges that today’s students encounter, fostering not just academic excellence but also emotional resilience and societal contribution. Integrated AI can capture and synthesize student reflection on their own learning to identify gaps and strengths which inform both student and teacher about what’s working in the classroom.

Whole-System Solution

AUHSD represents a whole-system solution. We are impacting 100 percent of the students, continue to engage more and more parents and community members, and have the goal of total transformation of the education profession. Additionally, we have established and continue to foster a close partnership with postsecondary, businesses, and social agencies. Our school community now has greater practical clarity of what is needed and, more importantly, what it looks like in practice. The challenge is that it takes a daunting intensity of interaction and integration (synergy) of the key components. The negative costs of not pursuing this new paradigm compared to the uplifting rewards of making it happen make this a challenge well worth fighting for.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
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FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • schoolnewsrollcall@gmail.com

ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:

Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura

COPY EDITORS: Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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Happy New Year!

This is our 5th year publishing the AUHSD *School News* and there is never a lack of exciting news to share.

Superintendent Michael B. Matsuda begins this issue with his message on page 2 on the subject of Emotional intelligence (EQ) and AI. As our world becomes smaller through the advancement of technology, it also becomes more complicated.

You will want to find a comfortable chair and plan to read this issue from cover to cover. Topics include

Artificial Intelligence, Korean American Story, Sports & Entertainment Exclusive Pathway, the Importance of Cybersecurity, Student Think Tank, Studying Local History, and so much more...

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices to keep abreast of the news from the classrooms.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 19 (All ages may enter).

Our next issue is August 28.



Don't let me go.

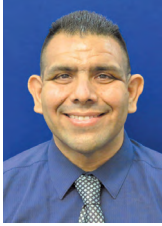
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AUHS Alternative Education Programs

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Cypress Independent Studies Guitar Club: Striking the Right Chord

Cypress IS Guitar Club, a haven for music enthusiasts, has become a thriving community where students passionately explore the art of playing the guitar. Led by teachers Joel Schwartz and Eric Okula, the club caters to

varying skill levels and fosters the 5C's with an emphasis on creativity, communication, and collaboration. Weekly meetings feature practice sessions, skill-sharing and the joy of jam sessions exploring original pieces. AUHS Independent Studies thrives on providing a personalized and flexible educational experience that includes opportunities for arts education and enrichment opportunities.

Jose Lara
Coordinator



CTE

501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/999-3511 • www.auhsd.us



Artificial Intelligence and Career Readiness

Helping students determine which career to pursue has always been challenging, and is now even more challenging with the rise of artificial intelligence tools such as Chat-GPT, Bard, and others. While it is scary to hear that some jobs will be replaced by artificial intelligence, the rise of these tools is a reminder that we must focus on the skills that make us human in order to be ready for the jobs of the future.

As automation becomes more prevalent, routine tasks will be delegated to AI systems. This will require professionals to leverage their uniquely human skills to bring value to the workplace, including the 5Cs of communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and creativity. In addition, as AI becomes integrated into various industry sectors, individuals will need to learn how to navigate and leverage these technologies effectively.

This will require a focus on continuous learning. Those who approach their careers with a life-long learning approach are much more likely to be successful.

Maintaining social capital, including relationships and connections to the community, will continue to be critical. Supporting these networks and bringing value to those around you will help ensure career success, and provide the kind of value that cannot be easily replicated by computer systems. Being career-ready will also involve having a deep understanding of the ethical implications surrounding AI, including issues of bias, transparency, accountability, and privacy. Professionals will need to navigate these ethical complexities to ensure responsible and fair AI usage.

AI will lead to new jobs as well, creating new opportunities. To set our students up for success, we must guide them to approach career-readiness as lifelong learners, continuously developing the 5Cs and paying attention to their own sense of voice, purpose, and mission.

AIME

501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/999-3794 • www.auhsd.us



MJ Cooke
Program Director

Artificial Intelligence

*By Scott Reindl, Coordinator,
21st Century Career Readiness.*

As the working world continues to evaluate and incorporate artificial intelligence tools, the AIME program stands ready to support students in exploring this with our industry partners. AIME, which stands for Anaheim's Innovative Mentoring Experience, provides career mentoring

and internships to AUHSD students and has connected students with over 100 business partners over the last several years, providing over 20,000 student experiences that include career-mentoring field trips and internships.

A current AIME project where students will explore artificial intelligence along with industry is a collaboration between students in the eLearning course Korean American Studies and eKadence, a software company that has developed the district's learning-management system. This project was prompted by AUHSD teacher Dr. Jeff Kim, who developed the Korean American Studies Course.

The highlight of this project will be a field trip to eKadence headquarters, where students will work with eKadence engineers to build a Korean American Studies Virtual Museum that will include an AI bot. The trip agenda includes an orientation to eKadence and artificial intelligence, collaborative brainstorming sessions, discussions about the museum's layout, and planning for the AI bot's training.

Students will work with eKadence engineers to finalize the design of the virtual museum, selecting the best platform for hosting content and the AI bot and devising an approach to train the AI bot in alignment with course content and preparing to present their findings.

This project showcases a unique approach to education, blending cultural understanding, technology, and community and business-partner engagement to create an impactful learning experience for students. The AIME program will continue to develop these opportunities to help students gain a better understanding of how the business world is grappling with artificial intelligence and ensure that our students are ready for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Visual & Performing Arts

501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/999-3794 • www.auhsd.us



Brian Belski
Director
Arts Education

Save the Music Foundation

In 2022, California voters passed Proposition 28, the Arts and Music In Schools Act, providing ongoing annual funding for arts education. In the first year, our allocation in AUHSD is a little over \$4.5 million. It is

an incredible opportunity to move toward providing

every student with an opportunity to learn in the arts. Implementation strategies include hiring more arts teachers, part-time coaches, and teaching artists, as well as acquiring new instruments and supplies. Additional support involves professional learning for teachers and collaborations with arts organizations like Chance Theater, Laguna Playhouse, and Backhaus

Dance. A multi-year grant from Save The Music Foundation ensures more instruments and the establishment of digital music production labs. Arts education in AUHSD fosters personal expression and communication skills, connecting students to themselves and each other, guiding them toward discovering their "Unlimited You."



Sycamore JHS band students unboxing new instruments courtesy of a grant from the Save The Music Foundation.

Educational Services

501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/999-3511 • www.auhsd.us



Dr. Jaron Fried
Assistant
Superintendent

eKadence and Artificial Intelligence

In the dynamic landscape of education technology, the district's state-of-the-art learning-management platform, eKadence, has become a game changer for our students and staff. At the heart of this revolutionary platform is Scrappy, an artificial-intelligence virtual tutor designed to transform the academic journey for students.

Scrappy isn't just any virtual tutor—it's a personalized guide programmed to support students without handing them the answers on a silver platter. In a world where academic struggles are all too common, Scrappy steps in as a beacon of hope, helping students navigate their studies with resilience and tenacity.

What sets Scrappy apart is its unique residence within the eKadence platform. Unlike other AI counterparts

scattered across the vast expanse of the World Wide Web, Scrappy resides exclusively within the eKadence ecosystem. This distinction ensures safeguards and protections are meticulously in place for our students as they engage in their learning.

Imagine a virtual tutor that doesn't just provide solutions but also empowers students to find their own answers. Scrappy achieves this delicate balance, fostering a sense of independence and critical thinking among learners. It's not just about completing assignments; it's about cultivating a mindset for lifelong learning.

In the coming weeks, the district will be piloting Scrappy with dozens of teachers and their students with the intention of rolling this innovative tool districtwide in fall 2024. I hope you'll join me in embracing the future of learning with eKadence and Scrappy, where enthusiasm meets excellence!

Plurilingual Services

501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/999-3511 • www.auhsd.us



Dr. Renae Bryant
Director

Dual Language Immersion

The AUHSD Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program was created more than a decade ago to increase language acquisition, sociocultural, global competence, and academic success. DLI is currently offered at seven schools: Spanish DL

Academy at Sycamore JH and Anaheim HS; Global Leadership and Language Academy at Brookhurst JH and Savanna HS; Vietnamese DLI Academy at Dale JH and Magnolia HS and Spanish DLI Academy at South JH and at Katella HS



(2025). Our secondary (7th-12th) DLI program is the first of its kind in O.C. and among the first in California. DLI ensures students are equipped with the skills to succeed in an increasingly competitive and diverse global community. AUHSD DLI is a 2019 CSBA Golden Bell and Californians Together Lynne Aoki Multiple Pathways District Recognition winning program. Anaheim HS and Sycamore JH are CAFE Seal

of Excellence Award winning programs. AUHSD accepts intra and inter district transfers.



AUHSD scholars earned over 1,300 Pathway to Biliteracy Awards and over 1,000 Seal of Biliteracy Awards in 2023.

Anaheim High School

811 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, CA 92805 • 714/999-371 • anaheimhs.org



Ruben Calleros
Principal

Anaheim High School's New Facility: The Newest Addition to the Home of Champions.

Anaheim High School started the 2024 year with the unveiling of a new state-of-the-art track and field facility. Our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony had a large turnout of current and former Anaheim students, families, community members, dignitaries, and notable alumni including Super Bowl Champion, Reuben Droughns, class of 1996.

This dream was made a reality with the support of our voters through Measure H funds, our Board of Trustees, and District leadership. This new facility includes an all-weather 9-lane running surface, artificial turf field, new scoreboard, lights, and seating for almost 1,000 spectators. This project is a testament to our community's belief in the transformative power of sports and extracurricular activities. This facility is a beautiful addition to our historic campus adding to our "Home of Champions" spirit as it will develop character, discipline, teamwork, compassion, grit, and countless moments of triumph among our nearly 20 athletics programs. Go Anaheim!



Ball Junior High School

1500 W. Ball Rd., Anaheim, CA 92802 • 714/999-3663 • ball.uhisd.us



Poppy Hill-Bonales
Principal

Our Partner, AI

At Ball Junior High School, students and staff members have embraced the integration of AI as a thought partner in the educational setting. In some classes, students are utilizing AI as a valuable tool to enhance their research skills and narrow down relevant facts.

The incorporation of generative AI tools has proven beneficial, enabling students to delve into subjects more efficiently while aligning with curriculum standards and learning objectives. An AI policy within one of the classes emphasizes the educational purpose of AI tools, highlighting that they should serve to extend human creativity, problem-solving, and independent judgment rather than replacing these essential skills. Adherence to proper citation processes is stressed, ensuring a responsible and ethical use of AI in the learning process.

Furthermore, some of the teachers at Ball Junior High School are participating in beta testing for Scrappy, eKadence's forthcoming AI chatbot. Many teachers have used AI applications to create and differentiate materials and resources, ensuring that students can access the curriculum more effectively. Teachers have also embraced AI as a thought partner in planning performance task assessments for Ball's Capstone program, showcasing the adaptability and collaborative potential of AI-human interactions. Our Exclusive Drone Pathway is also exploring how to integrate AI into the Exploring Drones curriculum to enhance our students' experience and better prepare them for the future world of work.

As AI continues to evolve and learn, Ball JHS's school community is excited about the potential of ongoing transformations in education and the ways in which humans can adapt to and leverage the capabilities of AI.

Brookhurst Junior High School

601 N. Brookhurst Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/999-3613 • brookhurst.org



Gilbert Amancio
Principal

Studying Local History

This fall, Brookhurst's eighth-grade students immersed themselves in a curriculum that intertwined their personal experiences with local history.

The semester began with students creating personal timelines, a reflective exercise that highlighted their individual histories. These timelines became a tool for teachers to introduce key historical terms like "cultural/historical significance," effectively linking students' personal stories with larger historical concepts.

In a Peardeck activity, students delved into the subtleties of primary and secondary sources, focusing on media representations of Orange County. They identified these sources as either "top-down," emphasizing major events and figures, or "bottom-up," showcasing the experiences of everyday people. This approach helped students appreciate history as a diverse tapestry of experiences and perspectives.

The curriculum was further enriched by AUHSD alum Marycarmen Montanez's visit, who discussed her thesis on the history of schooling in Anaheim. Inspired by

her insights, students analyzed historical photographs of Anaheim, sharpening their observation skills and formulating open-ended questions, fostering an inquiry-based learning approach.

This method of inquiry-based learning encouraged students to look beyond the surface and consider the broader context and implications of historical images. The students then delved into *A People's Guide to Orange County*, undertaking a project to create informative posters that encapsulated the essence of various local sites, drawing on the knowledge gleaned from the book and supplemental newspaper articles.

A key highlight was the opportunity for students to hear directly from the co-authors of *A People's Guide to Orange County*. This opportunity deepened the students' understanding and framed history as a dynamic, ongoing story. The authors' visit enabled students to inquire about their research and discuss specific sites mentioned in the book.

This innovative approach at Brookhurst aims to empower our students to view themselves as active historians, capable of narrating their stories and contributing to their community's evolving history.

Cambridge Virtual Academy

830 S. Dale St., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/999-7757 • cambridge.auhsd.us



Hilda Vazquez
Principal

Korean American Story

Cambridge Virtual Academy (CVA) is making history this year by becoming the first high school in the United States of America to offer Korean American Studies. Dr. Jeff Kim, National Board-Certified Teacher and author of this course, lets each student know that in order for the tree to grow tall, "they have to know their roots."

Students all across AUHSD are welcome to enroll in our Korean American Studies Honors Course through eLearning. Through this course, every student, regardless of background, has the opportunity to know, tell, and do something good with their own stories of resilience. In fact, this past November, CVA enjoyed a beautiful night at the Stories of Resilience Dedication, an in-person event where students presented their ethnographies and dedicated them to their families. There was not a dry eye in the audience.

Events like this have led to the attention of media agencies including [NBC](#), [EdSource](#), [NPR](#), and the [Korea Times](#) and recognition as the Outstanding Ethnic Studies Community Partner Award from APISBMA in December.



Dr. Jeff Kim and students participating in the Korean American Studies Course.

Our eLearning class has also received a special partnership with the Department of Homeland Security, eKadance Learning Foundation, and the Republic of Korea, further providing opportunities for service learning, internships, recognition for college, and preparation for future jobs.

We are proud to continue leading teaching and learning for students by creating relevant and engaging courses of studies that provide authentic learning experiences.

Cypress High School

9801 Valley View St., Cypress, CA 90630 • (714) 220-4144 • cypress.auhsd.us



Jennifer Brown
Principal

Sports and Entertainment Exclusive Pathway

Cypress High School is known for excellence in academics, athletics, and visual and performing arts. Continuing our tradition of excellence, the Centurions are proud to introduce our new Sports and Entertainment Exclusive Pathway! Through this pathway, CHS students embark on an exhilarating journey through the world of Sports and Entertainment. This pathway provides students with an education that integrates and develops the academic, career, social, and emotional skills to succeed in their post-secondary endeavors while cultivating and supporting student voice, identity, and purpose. This unique program allows students to dive into career development in areas like Sports Medicine, Hospitality, Catering, Event Planning, and even eSports. Students can master the art of Sports and Entertainment Marketing, explore the dynamic world of Sports and Entertainment Law, or contribute to Energy, Environment, and Utilities in sports and entertainment venues. Additionally, our Broadcasting track, which produces CTV live daily, is a dream come true for those who love being behind the camera or in the spotlight. We proudly help students turn their passions into a thrilling educational adventure!



Dale Junior High School

900 S. Dale Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/220-4210 • dale.auhsd.us



Rafael Santiago
Principal

Educating about Cybersecurity

Dale Junior High School is taking a proactive approach to educating its students about the importance of cybersecurity. With the rise of cyber threats and attacks, it has become increasingly important to teach young people how to protect themselves and their digital information. The school has developed a comprehensive cybersecurity program that aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to stay safe online.

The program covers a wide range of topics, including the basics of cybersecurity, the importance of strong passwords, how to recognize and avoid phishing scams, and the potential dangers of social media. Students also learn about the legal and ethical implications of cybersecurity as well as the potential career opportunities in the field.

One of the key components of the program is hands-on learning. Students have the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops and simulations that allow them to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios. They also

have access to cutting-edge technology and software that helps them understand the tools and techniques used by cyber criminals.

In addition to the regular curriculum, the school also hosts guest speakers and organizes field trips to local businesses and organizations that specialize in cybersecurity. This gives students the chance to learn from industry professionals and see firsthand how cybersecurity is applied in a professional setting.

The cybersecurity program at Dale Junior High School has been well-received by both students and parents. Many students have expressed their appreciation for the practical skills they have gained, and parents have praised the school for its proactive approach to keeping their children safe online.

Overall, the program has been a great success and has set a strong example for other schools looking to prioritize cybersecurity education. By investing in the digital safety of its students, Dale Junior High School is preparing them for a future where cybersecurity will only become more crucial.

Hope School

7901 Knott Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/220-4199 • hope.auhsd.us



**Louie
LeMonnier**
Principal

Hope Amplified: AI Empowers Student Voices

At Hope School, we've embraced cutting-edge technology, notably Artificial Intelligence (AI), to enhance and empower our students voice. This technological advancement significantly enriches Student Voice and Purpose. A prime example of this is our introduction of an innovative mobile app called Flexspeak, which is designed to aid non-speaking students with disabilities, such as autism and Down syndrome, in communicating. This app leverages AI to translate students' vocabulary into various languages, making it exceptionally useful for those from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. A heartwarming success story involves an Indonesian student and his family who recently moved into AUHSD boundaries. Their joy and motivation were evident during a meeting when they learned the app supported their native language. Now, as one of the most active users of Flexspeak, this student is blossoming into an effective



communicator, showcasing the profound impact that such technology can have in making communication more accessible for those who need it the most. Hope School is a place where technology amplifies potential, not replaces it. We believe every voice deserves to be heard, and AI is helping us make that happen.

Katella High School

2200 E. Wagner Ave., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/999-3621 • katella.auhsd.us



**Chuck
Hernandez**
Principal

Using AI to Enhance Learning

At Katella High School, our teachers are eager to explore innovative tools that can enrich learning for students. One new innovation has been the introduction of an AI tool called "Class Companion." This powerful tool provides instant feedback on written assignments. Teachers provide the AI tool with a writing prompt and a rubric to assess students. Class Companion does provide pre-made rubrics that are aligned with the various AP Exams, but the teachers also have the option to upload a custom rubric based on their content area.

Class Companion represents the limitless potential in AI to enhance instruction and learning. Rather than waiting days or even weeks for teacher feedback, students can receive immediate input on their written assignments. This real-time feedback system accelerates the learning process, allowing students to quickly identify areas of improvement and build upon their strengths. This tool can also tailor feedback according to each student's needs, thus ensuring that everyone gets the right kind of support at the right time. There is even a feature that allows students to upload a handwritten essay and receive feedback from the AI.



For our AP World History students at Katella High School, the experience has been overwhelmingly positive. Students appreciate the instantaneous nature of the feedback, which motivates them to refine their thoughts and challenge their own understanding of historical events. A 10th-grade student remarked,

"I really like how the AI gives you hints if you don't get the question right the first time." If a student does not earn full points for their response, the AI in Class Companion kindly nudges them in the right direction with relevant feedback. Another student stated, "When you get a question right, the AI gives you a nice affirmation," which other students agreed increased their overall confidence with their essay responses.

The adoption of Class Companion in Katella High School's AP World History class is a testament to the transformative power of AI in the educational sphere. The tools available to us today might be a sneak peek into how educators will be able to harness the capabilities of artificial intelligence in the classroom.



Dr. Seema Sidhu
Principal

Holistic Approach to AI

In an era when artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming ubiquitous, Kennedy High School has taken a holistic schoolwide approach to it to ensure that its students, staff, and parents are heavily involved in the learning process. AI literacy should be a basic component of every student's education, but how much do our students, staff, and parents know about AI and its implications?

In order to unravel this question, Kennedy has included its parent group into the conversation along with its feeder middle school, Walker, to host its monthly Coffee with the Principal on AI and its exclusive pathway. Parents learned how AI is impacting their students along with its implications in education, the workforce, and beyond. Parents were introduced to AI and what changes both schools have made to integrate it into the existing curriculum. Parents were given an overview of the engineering, computer science, and app-development courses, including the opportunity for students to earn Google Certificates in IT support, AI automation with Python, and data analytics.

Through the AI pathway and schoolwide implementation, students are encouraged to demonstrate the five C's—critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, and character—to prepare them for life beyond high school. Several students and teachers will also be meeting with Google for Education to share their perspectives and experiences on AI in preparation for the AI K12 Deeper Learning Summit in March. The shift in employer demand toward AI skills is palpable.

Kennedy's response? A curriculum that blends AI with subjects like English and social science, ensuring that students don't just learn AI in isolation but also understand its interdisciplinary applications. For instance, a recent exploration of ChatGPT in world history classes led to discussions about the ethical use of AI, culminating in the

creation of a class ethical-use agreement. This agreement emphasizes supervised, purposeful use and the importance of active learning. Moreover, Kennedy's initiative goes beyond the classroom. Staff development days have been dedicated to educating teachers about AI—how AI can support teaching, learning, lesson planning, and teacher productivity as well as discussions around cheating, plagiarism, and the responsible use of AI. This holistic approach ensures that the entire school community is AI-literate.

Students were also introduced to AI literacy and ethics through two schoolwide advisement lessons created by the site's leadership team. When students were asked what else they wanted to learn about, the overwhelming majority said that they wanted to learn how AI would impact the workforce. With AI integrated into subjects like career finance and technology (CFT) for freshmen, Kennedy's students are not just being prepared for college or a job—they're also being prepared to compete in a global economy deeply intertwined with AI.

Kennedy's visionary approach to AI education is setting a new standard in high school education, proving that AI is not just a professional tool but is also a fundamental aspect of modern learning. We have only just begun to explore AI in education and look forward to discovering more with our students, staff, and parents at the forefront of the AI journey.



Lexington Junior High School

4351 Orange Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-4201 • lexington.auhsd.us



Daniel Klatzker
Principal

Student Opportunities to Shine

Lexington will be busy 2nd semester with students participating in all types of opportunities to showcase their achievements and successes. Lexington, being both a California Democracy School and recipient of the Civic Action Award, will be continuing our tradition of civic awareness with the Tolerance Summit this March and OC Bridges Civic

Action week. In addition, students will continue explore their capacities through ACE (Achieving Creative Excellence), Open House, and then all of our students will be participating in the Lexington Capstone in April asking each of our students what will be their legacy; their "Paw Print" as they journey through Lexington.

The Lion Lounge, our wellness space, has been renovated and will be open for both students and staff to go as a safe place to community build, restore conflict, eat lunch, participate in meetings, and provide mental



health supports. We are hard at work making Lexington a place for students to thrive both academically and emotionally.

Loara High School

1765 W. Cerritos, Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/999-3677 • loara.auhsd.us



Gary Brown
Principal

Embracing Diversity: Loara High's Cultural Celebrations Unite Community

Loara High School's community serves as a hub for diverse events that bring together staff, students, families, and the larger community. These gatherings, led by various clubs and organizations, are dedicated to celebrating our rich cultural tapestry.

The MECHA club recently hosted an amazing Día de los Muertos event, paying tribute to loved ones who have passed. This event beautifully blended traditions, serving as a poignant reminder of our heritage and the significance of remembering our roots.



Following that, Loara's Posada, meticulously orchestrated by our Community School coordinator, focused on unity and the celebration of coming together to strengthen bonds.

Excitingly, there's more to anticipate! The Vietnamese club is gearing up for a thrilling Lunar New Year celebration. This event promises to be a blast, showcasing vibrant traditions that mark this special occasion.

These events at Loara High School extend beyond mere enjoyment; they are about fostering connections, embracing diversity, and sharing in the beauty of our distinct cultures.



Magnolia High School

2450 W. Ball Rd., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/220-4221 • magnolia.auhsd.us



Aaron Chau
Principal

Cybersecurity Building

For the past four years, significant construction has been underway at Magnolia High School's campus. This construction began with the development of an outdoor quad/stage, tennis courts, locker rooms, art/ceramic building, and a pool, and has expanded to include a new building. As cybersecurity is Magnolia Exclusive Pathway,

the new facility is essential to fully harness the potential of this pathway. Set to be completed in May 2024, the new structure will accommodate most of the main office staff and feature a lobby for parents, four computer labs, and five classrooms, all dedicated to cybersecurity. This will support the success of the more than 160 students enrolled in the pathway. Additionally, the building will include work rooms and a server room for hands-on technology training. The new space is designed to equip students in the cybersecurity pathway with the necessary resources and opportunities to prepare them

for college and careers in technology. With AUHSD board approval, the new facility will be named after Jan and Ross Billings. Jan Billings was a former and highly respected superintendent of AUHSD, while Ross Billings was a former teacher who brought innovation into the classroom at Magnolia High School.



Orangeview Junior High School

3715 W. Orange Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/220-4205 • orangeview.auhsd.us



Bindi Crawford
Principal

On and Off Campus!

In October, we broke ground on the first major construction project on campus since 1993. We expect the project to last about a year and will welcome brand-new tennis courts, a new pickup and drop off area for the campus, a new solar panel parking lot, permanent fencing around campus, and new lights on our blacktop. The construction crew has been hard at work, and students are enjoying their temporary basketball courts during lunch.

Our campus has been a busy place, with lots of things happening, and while we are only halfway through the school year! We have already welcomed our new incoming sixth-grade class and walked our eighth-grade students to visit Western. We competed in our first esports tournament, held a successful

Panther Picnic, filled the Performing Arts Center with our band and choir holiday concert, celebrated our students during 8 Fun Fridays, and began our Capstone Project. Our focus this year was to take the classroom on the road.

Our students have already been on more than 25 field trips this year, and we have many more planned for the second half of the year. Field trips have included going to the theater, the Santa Monica Pier, a major film studio, the beach, Fullerton College, Cypress College, Chapman University, and Cal State Long Beach. This year was the first year that we have partnered with Western High School, and we have enjoyed over eight field trips together, with high school students mentoring junior high students. Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Moreno hosted a hike to Crystal Cove on Dec. 2, and it was an awesome experience!



Oxford Academy

5172 Orange Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-3055 • oxford.auhsd.us



Amber Houston
Principal

Smells Like School Spirit

We started off the new year with a bang: our Homecoming 2024 Sugar Rush! Our ASB had a fun-filled, culture-building, and engaging week full of morning spirit rallies, lunchtime activities, and spirit dress, all of which added that extra dash of fun after coming back from a two-week winter break.

Our OA athletics also had a jam-packed schedule of games, including boys and girls soccer. Girls and boys basketball also

represented our school with skill and good sportsmanship. We ended that Friday with a whole school pep rally in our gym featuring our band, dance team, choir and athletic teams—and with tradition in mind, we announced our Homecoming Court for each grade level.

Following this, our ASB sophomore class executed their Homecoming Dance, the Sugar Rush! We had over 400 students in our gym celebrating what it means to be a Patriot. The students enjoyed a dance floor, VR games, a photo booth, Skee-Ball, basketball, and, of course, a whole lot of candy.



After an intense college application season it was nice to remember to relax and have fun with our classmates. Now it's back to the books starting the semester two-strong, and with the intention to finish the year academically successful!

Savanna High School

301 N. Gilbert St., Anaheim, CA 9280 • 714/220-4262 • savanna.auhsd.us



Mike Pooley
Principal

Community Schools Center is Up and Helping

At Savanna High School our Community Schools Center is up and helping so many students and their families. Our Community Schools Coordinator Yurkio Maldonado and our Community Schools Teacher Lead Erika Kobayashi have taken a new space on campus and have made it a beacon of support for our Rebels. Over the first semester, they

have built 5 raised garden beds for herbs and vegetables. This has created a space on campus for students and staff



to collaborate and develop new friendships and skills. They have also established the REBEL EXCHANGE: students/families can access gently used clothing/shoes. In addition, we have provided Cielo Workshop for parents who are interested in starting their own small businesses and we have been working with our partners at OCAPICA to help Launch the Luna program for the Spring semester. Savanna students are being trained as Luna Leaders to serve as mental health ambassadors to their peers. There is much going on in the Community Schools Center and we are happy to help our Rebels, Together We Are Savanna!



South Junior High School

2320 E. South St., Anaheim, CA 9280 • 714/999-3667 • south.auhsd.us



Yolanda Mejia
Principal

Pop-Up Markets

The Community Schools team at South JHS and Katella has collaborated with Ambassador Church, local small businesses, and student groups, aiming to foster community connections through Pop-up markets. These events serve as gathering spaces for students, families, and the community to network, explore businesses, and engage in the realm of social entrepreneurship. Our intent goes beyond providing a platform; we aspire to enable students to apply their 5C's (Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Character/Compassion) acquired in classrooms.



For instance, Mr. Bidwel and Mr. Smith lead Robotics and Woodshop classes, creating wood frames, decorative planters, and craft kits. Mr. Nguyen, South Business Tech and digital animation class crafted postcards with positive messages for staff.

Two successful Pop-up markets in October and December proved impactful for students, teachers, and the community, sparking a desire for more. South JHS is committed to further cultivating this sense of community. We are proud of the many opportunities, connections, and relationships the Pop-Up Markets have provided to the South community!

Sycamore Junior High School

1801 E. Sycamore St., Anaheim, CA 92805 • 714/999-3616 • sycamore.auhsd.us



Nancy Cortez
Principal

Harnessing the Power of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing education, and Sycamore Junior High is at the forefront of this transformation. The integration of AI into the curriculum is strategically designed to support students in their learning endeavors and skill development.

In Mr. Esperanza's seventh-grade world history classes, students have embraced AI as a valuable learning tool. Sherpa, a recent addition to their technological toolkit, facilitates one-on-one conversations with an AI assistant about specific texts. Sherpa initiates discussions by posing questions, and then prompts the students to record their responses by using their Chromebooks' cameras and microphones. This AI tool then analyzes their answers and engages the students with follow-up questions.

This innovative approach not only showcases our students' impressive critical thinking skills, it also provides real-time feedback. Mr. Esperanza enthusiastically describes it as having, "Thirty-five teachers in the classroom at once."



In Mrs. Tice's and Mrs. Pineda's seventh-grade English classes, students go beyond reading spooky tales – they become creators of suspenseful narratives.

Drawing inspiration from Edgar Allan Poe, and guided by dissecting short stories, their students have been crafting chilling podcasts that showcase their storytelling prowess.

The fall capstone project involved collaborative storytelling, with students leveraging plot maps and suspense knowledge to create a bone-chilling group story. To add a visual dimension, Canva AI's Magic Touch software was employed to generate captivating thumbnails. The students fed their story descriptions into the AI image generator, resulting in custom-made artwork that perfectly captured the essence of their chilling creation. This project not only demonstrated the power of imagination and collaboration, it also highlighted the role of AI in enhancing the creative process.

Sycamore's commitment to integrating AI into various subjects showcases our school's dedication to providing its students with a cutting-edge and enriched learning experience.

Western High School

501 S. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/220-4040 • western.auhsd.us



Lorena Moreno
Principal

Nurturing 21st-Century Skills

Western's exclusive pathway, known as "Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the iLab," seamlessly integrates various industries into one comprehensive educational experience. This pathway is designed to accelerate our students' learning and equip them with the skills they need for future job creation.

The program focuses on several key outcomes, including financial literacy and an understanding of intellectual property, such as the patent process. Students also delve into entrepreneurship, product development, market research, and industry disruption. They have the opportunity to earn industry-specific IBM Skills Build certifications in areas like Principles of Design, Professional Skills, and Mindfulness. Additionally, the program also encourages social entrepreneurship and civic engagement, instilling a sense of responsibility and community involvement in students.

Collaborations with districts, such as the 2023-2024 iLab/BioTech/MACC Collaboration, offer students real-world experiences like app-making and Job Corps programs. AIME's Web Design Internship also allows the students to work as a web design agency that creates websites for district programs.

Cross-curricular collaboration further enhances the program, enabling students to engage in projects that span public health, science, mathematics, and culinary arts. These collaborative efforts include community research projects, product development, international student visits, empowered design thinking, cost analysis, and market research.

The program's signature AIME field trips and guests, including visits to the OC Sustainability Fair, Hyundai Design Center, Roland, Delta Airlines, eKadence, and Deloitte, provide students with valuable exposure to various industries. These experiences bridge the gap between classroom learning and the professional world.

In conclusion, the Western Exclusive Pathway at Western High School offers a holistic and forward-thinking educational model. It

empowers students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences they need for success in diverse industries, and prepares them for a bright future.



Lucy and Anh winning first place in the Delta Airlines Design Challenge



The iLab is a beautiful space for project based learning



Students attending and AIME fieldtrip at Hyundai

Walker Junior High School

8132 Walker St., La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/220-4051 • walker.auhsd.us



Dr. Jennifer Sasai
Principal

Student Think Tank

Walker Junior High School is fostering a culture of student engagement and empowerment through its innovative Student Think Tank. This unique initiative provides a platform for representatives from the student body to come together quarterly and discuss vital aspects of school life, including climate, culture,

and the integration of the seven C's—communication, collaboration, critical thinking, character/kindness, creativity, cultural diversity, and civic engagement.

The Student Think Tank serves as a space where students actively contribute to shaping the educational and cultural environment at Walker Junior High. It goes beyond traditional avenues, offering a dynamic forum where students can express their opinions, share perspectives, and actively participate in decision-making processes. This not only enriches their educational experience but also instills a sense of responsibility and ownership in the school community.

One of the central focuses of these quarterly sessions is the examination of the seven C's. By delving into



each of these essential skills, students explore how they can be incorporated into their daily lives, both inside and outside the classroom. This not only enhances their academic prowess but also equips them with valuable life skills that will serve them well in the future.

Moreover, the Student Think Tank extends its reach to the digital realm through student e-portfolios. These e-portfolios provide students with a platform to document their achievements, reflect on their growth, and articulate their goals. Importantly, e-portfolios give students a voice in shaping the narrative of their educational journey, fostering a sense of agency and self-awareness.

Walker Junior High School's commitment to involving students in the decision-making process and nurturing the seven C's is evident in the success of the Student Think Tank. This initiative not only creates a vibrant and inclusive school culture but also equips students with the skills and confidence needed to navigate an ever-changing world. By prioritizing student input, Walker Junior High is laying the foundation for empowered, thoughtful, and engaged citizens of the future.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION (EC §§200, 220, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973):

The Anaheim Union High School District Governing Board is committed to providing equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs, activities, practices, and employment shall be free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

A copy of the District's nondiscrimination policy is available from the District office or on the District website under Board Policies (Board Policy 8900).

A copy of the District's sexual harassment policy is available from the District office or on the District website under Board Policies (Board Policy 8708).

A copy of the District's Section 504 policy is available from the District office or on the District website under Board Policies (Board Policy 8200).

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Complaints alleging noncompliance with the District's policy of nondiscrimination should be directed to:

Nondiscrimination Compliance Coordinator

Brad Jackson
Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Anaheim Union High School District
501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801
jackson_b@auhsd.us

Complaints alleging noncompliance with the District's sexual harassment policy (Title IX) should be directed to :

Title IX Coordinator (Students)

Lorena Stout
Anaheim Union High School District
501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801
stout_l@auhsd.us

Complaints alleging noncompliance with the District's Section 504 policy should be directed to:

Section 504 Coordinator

Amy Kwon
Director, Learning & Development
Anaheim Union High School District
501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801
kwon_a@auhsd.us

Sourish's Review



Sourish M.

The Battle of Survival!

Have you ever wanted a Video game to be real? *Dragon Ops*, a book written by Mari Mancusi demonstrates this exact topic! It shows the main character Ian Rivera, a video



game enthusiast ,his sister Lili, and his cousin Derek get invited to play Dragon Ops, an augmented virtual reality video game theme park. However, as soon as they had approached, their time there would be more dangerous than before. This book is very suspenseful and keeps you on your toes! It shows the development of characters, the adventure of a lifetime, and incorporates the fantasy aspects, wishing it was real. The author displays familiarity to previously known topics as well as uses vivid visualization of being in a virtual reality world. The journey these heroes have to face is difficult but in order to triumph in their battle, they must pursue to end Arteus, the Dragon of Fire.

Sourish M. is an eighth grader who is enthusiastic to learn and understand how the world works. He likes Science, Engineering, Reading, swimming, plays soccer, Basketball, Guitar, Viola and has fun with friends and family. Sourish loves to spend long hours in nature and expanding his experiences by traveling with his family.

Taegyong's Book Review



Taegyong K.

Good or Evil

Title: *The School for Good and Evil*
Author: Soman Chainani

This story takes a new take on fairytales. In the school, the "Good" learn to be heroes or their helpers, and the "Evil" learn to become villains or their henchman. The two main characters are Agatha and Sophie. Agatha is confused to find herself in the Good School and Sophie is just as equally baffled to be in the Evil School.



Both are finding their classes difficult as beautiful Sophie must learn how to be a conventional fairytale villain, and black-clad Agatha must fit in to classes to learn makeup and attracting a "Perfect Prince Charming". The two best friends then figure out that to get back home, Agatha and Sophie must solve a riddle that seems to threaten the very existence of the school.

Will the two be able to fix this fairytale? Or will this be the first Disney bad ending?

Taegyong K. is a 8th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

Good Dental Health Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com
(Please put AUHSD in the subject line)



Entries must be received by February 15, 2024.
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game fun for all ages!

Breads	Eggs	Milk
Brushing	Examination	Nutrition
Cereals	Fish	Orthodontist
Checkup	Flossing	Pediatric
Daily	Fluoride	Sugar
Dairy	Fruits	Tooth
Dentist	Guidelines	Vegetables
Development	Healthy	Water
Diet	Meat	Whole grains

T	U	S	K	S	R	M	L	E	G	G	S	D	N	W
E	S	N	E	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	A
I	X	I	O	A	P	N	F	O	S	N	A	D	B	T
D	Y	A	T	I	Y	L	I	A	D	R	E	C	R	E
S	H	R	M	N	T	J	R	L	A	V	R	H	U	R
B	E	G	I	I	O	I	P	D	E	S	E	E	S	A
H	A	E	N	A	N	D	R	L	R	D	C	C	H	M
S	L	L	R	I	D	A	O	T	B	S	I	K	I	D
I	T	O	A	L	S	P	T	H	U	R	H	U	N	R
F	H	H	U	N	M	S	K	I	T	N	T	P	G	O
R	Y	W	W	E	C	V	O	A	O	R	O	E	L	J
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I	J	T	R	L	T	D	D	E	F	B	T	I	A	Y
T	S	I	T	N	E	D	I	R	O	U	L	F	S	Q
S	I	W	N	P	Y	Q	L	B	S	K	E	V	F	I

Congratulations to: Robyn Casillas and Kail Casey
Winners of the September Contests!

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- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- MEDICAL CAREERS
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