

NSD TODAY

Empowering Every Child Every Day

25375 Orchard Village Road, Valencia, CA 91355

2024-2025 | ISSUE 3



ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR!

Do you have a child that is eligible to start elementary school in the fall? Enroll your student today!

Who should enroll now?

- NEW incoming UPK and Kindergarten students
- Any new student coming from a school outside the District. If your child has previously attended school in NSD and is returning for the 2025-2026 school year, they are considered a returning student and will need to re-enroll.

How do I register my child?

- Visit the District website at www.newhallschooldistrict.com and click on the Enrollment section at the top.
- Scroll down to the Aeries Online Enrollment Link

Need Technical Support?

- Contact your school of residence for support
- If your school is unavailable, please contact the District Office at (661) 291-4000

MEET THE GOVERNING BOARD!



Governing Board President Ernesto Smith

Mr. Smith has served as a Board Member for Trustee Area 3 since 2016. He is dedicated to the service to his community and the education of children. He volunteers in his children's classes regularly, has served as his school's site council chair, a former District Safety Committee member, a former Measure E Citizen Oversight Committee member, a volunteer youth basketball coach, a volunteer youth soccer coach and a volunteer youth soccer referee.

Governing Board Clerk Rachelle Haddoak

Mrs. Haddoak has served as a Board Member for Trustee Area 2 since 2022. She grew up in Santa Clarita and is a proud product of our local public schools. From a young age, Rachelle knew she wanted to be a teacher; from then on, her passion for education has only grown. Students are at the forefront of her mind for every decision she makes, as she knows how imperative the formative elementary years are to the rest of a child's life.

Governing Board Clerk Pro Tem Isaiah Talley

Mr. Talley has served as a Board Member for Trustee Area 4 since 2016. Isaiah is an entrepreneur owning two local businesses, bringing his knowledge of finances, technology, and security to further inform the board discussions and decisions. Mr. Talley wanted a firsthand view of what was being offered in the Newhall School District, and how he could contribute to the system to further improve and grow the instructional program, safety, and technology of the Newhall Schools.

Governing Board Member Donna Robert

Ms. Robert has served as a Board Member for Trustee Area 1 since 2022. Donna is a well-rounded, proven educator whose life-long goal is to make an impact that will improve the strategies for educating our students. She knows first-hand that teachers are the gateway for meeting the students where they are and helping them get to where we want them to be. Her 20 plus years of experience as a teacher gives her first-hand knowledge of how board decisions ultimately affect students. Additionally, her 20 plus years in accounting and financial services further enhances her ability to do a cost benefit analysis when making budget decisions.

Governing Board Member Suzan Solomon

Mrs. Solomon has served as a Board Member for Trustee Area 5 for over 25 years! Suzan believes that the greatest impact we can have on people's lives is being active at the local level. Suzan believes every child deserves and should have access to the highest quality education, and that every parent, caregiver, educator, and community member have a voice in education policy, programs, and community issues that maximizes the learning opportunities for all students and supports professional development for teachers, administrators and support staff.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to Oak Hills Elementary School's Behavior Support Specialist Andrea Miller who was nominated by her peers as December 2024's classified employee of the month! Andrea was hired as an Instructional Aide in 2010 and was an aide until 2016 when she transitioned to a Behavior Support Specialist.

Congratulations to Old Orchard Elementary School's Safety Supervisor Jody Vera who was nominated by her peers as January 2025's classified employee of the month! Jody has been a Safety Supervisor for Old Orchard Elementary since 2011!

Congratulations to Peachland Elementary's Night Custodian Martha Sifuentes who was nominated by her peers as February 2025's classified employee of the month! Martha began her career in the District in 1997 as a sub custodian. She was then hired as a full-time night custodian in 1998. Martha has served several schools in the Newhall School District for almost 30 years!

Thank you to Andrea, Jody and Martha for their dedicated service to the Newhall School District!



Andrea Miller
Behavior Support Specialist



Jody Vera
Safety Supervisor



Martha Sifuentes
Night Custodian

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST SIXTH GRADE DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROMOTING CLASS!

On February 25, 2025 the Governing Board, Superintendent Hernandez, and California Association for Bilingual Education President Dr. Raúl Maldonado recognized the sixth grade students in Old Orchard Elementary School's Dual Language Immersion Program.

As the first group of 6th grade students to graduate from the Dual Language Immersion Program in the Newhall School District, they have set a remarkable example for others and have shown the power of bilingualism and biliteracy in opening doors to endless opportunities. Their hard work and commitment to learning two languages will continue to serve them well in all their future endeavors.

Old Orchard's sixth graders in the program will promote in June along with all other sixth graders in the District.



UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN (UPK)



Our goal is to provide every child with a strong start regardless of their prior experience.

What is UPK?

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) or Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a free Pre-Kindergarten program where children learn together through play and develop their social skills. All four-year-old children are eligible for UPK the year before entering Kindergarten. UPK is free of charge as part of California's public school system.

Starting in the 2025-26 school year, all children who turn four by September 2 are eligible for UPK.

All ten Newhall School District schools offer UPK programs. You can visit our website at www.newhallschooldistrict.com and click on the Enrollment section for more information on how to enroll your child.

What does a typical UPK day look like?

UPK teacher Amy Freidin from Stevenson Ranch Elementary has taught for 29 years in the Newhall School District and 13 years in UPK. Ms. Freidin shares, "I am so lucky to have the privilege to teach UPK in the Newhall School District. Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) serves as the vital bridge between preschool and kindergarten. Our goal is to provide every child with a strong start regardless of their prior experience. We embrace a play-based approach to teaching our youngest learners offering hands-on activities that foster growth in social, emotional and academic areas. A typical day in the classroom includes: circle time, literature, small group and whole group reading and math, integrated lessons in social studies and science, art, and opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play. When you step into a UPK classroom, you'll be welcomed by the joyful sounds of children engaged in learning and discovery."

For more information on your assigned elementary school, school hours, or childcare, visit our website at www.newhallschooldistrict.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Beginners Showcase Concerts

Join our beginning string and band students as they showcase what they have learned so far. All concerts will be held at Pico Canyon Elementary School. Contact your school for specific times.

March
3, 5, 6



Governing Board Meetings

Join us! Visit the District's website at www.newhallschooldistrict.com for more information on how to join.

March
11 & 25



Spring Conferences

Schools will contact families with more information. Stay tuned!

March
31
-
April
2



Spring Break

No school.

April
3 - 11



Open House

Schools will contact families with more information. Stay tuned!

May
1



Spring Music Concerts

All concerts will be held at Wiley Canyon Elementary School. Contact your school for specific times.

May
5, 7, 8