

# NSD TODAY

*Empowering Every Child Every Day*

25375 Orchard Village Road, Valencia, CA 91355

2024-2025 | ISSUE 1

## WELCOME BACK!

I am honored to be starting another school year as the Superintendent of the Newhall School District where I can serve the students and families in our community. Our school district is extremely rich in tradition and we believe that students are capable of learning at a very high level. We will do our best to provide an environment that allows students to thrive and inspire their potential.

I thank you for your unwavering support of our programs and schools. Together we will continue to move forward on the path to success. I wish you a happy school year!

Leticia Hernandez, Ed.D.

"I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our amazing staff and students."

-Dr. Leticia Hernandez



## REGISTRATION FOR THE NEW YEAR IS STILL OPEN

Registration is open online for all students in grades UPK through 6th grade. Click on the Enrollment section of the website for more information at [www.newhallschooldistrict.com](http://www.newhallschooldistrict.com).

# FACILITIES, MAINTENANCE, & OPERATIONS WERE BUSY OVER THE SUMMER

Summer is the busiest time for our Facilities, Maintenance & Operations, Technology, and custodial staff. Several projects were completed throughout the District, including:

- New heating ventilation, and, air conditioning (“HVAC”) systems installed at Old Orchard and Stevenson Ranch
- SmartBoards replaced throughout the District
- Annual routine fire alarm, fire sprinkler, fire extinguisher and playground inspections were completed
- Asphalt repairs were completed at Pico Canyon
- Tree trimming completed at McGrath, Newhall, Stevenson Ranch, Wiley Canyon, and the District Office
- Exterior door painting completed at Stevenson Ranch and Wiley Canyon
- All site flooring was stripped and waxed

The department has several other projects in various stages of completion, including

- Replacement of network access points to improve internet access throughout the District
- Completion of designs for new audio/visual systems in all MPRs. The next step is to go out to bid for installation of the systems
- Access control and CCTV upgrades are in progress for the ten schools. The project will include a new key card system for doors and a video security system
- Old Orchard’s field fence will be extended to expand the field area for student play

## NEW PLAYGROUNDS AT NEWHALL & PEACHLAND PRESCHOOLS



Two new playgrounds are bringing joy to students at the Newhall and Peachland Preschools. Returning students were excited to see the transformation to their favorite area on campus! Preschool Coordinator Kelly Ferko shared “The Newhall State Preschool is so excited to start the school year with a brand new play structure!”

The addition of a new inclusive accessible playground at the Peachland Preschool is the first all-accessible playground in the District. The playground is designed to allow children of all abilities to play together, promoting health and wellness through memorable experiences.

Principal Katrina Stroh shared “We are excited to welcome our preschoolers to a playground designed for their unique needs and interests. The District’s inclusive efforts continue to improve experiences for our kiddos.”

Stay tuned for updates on the upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony!



The new inclusive playground for the Peachland Preschool

## Awards & Recognitions!

The Newhall School District believes in the importance of recognizing employees' hard work and dedication, and creating a positive work environment that celebrates contributions and fosters a culture of mutual respect and appreciation. Each month, a classified staff member from a different site is selected by his/her peers as the Classified Employee of the Month and invited to attend a Governing Board Meeting to be honored for their achievement.

Congratulations to Network Technician Frank Madrigal who was nominated by his Facilities, Maintenance, & Operations and Technology Services peers as July's Classified Employee of the Month. Frank joined the NSD Team in 2005 and previously held Safety Supervisor and System Administrator positions.

Congratulations to English Language Accountability Assistant Maria Martinez who was nominated by her District Office peers as August's Classified Employee of the Month. Maria joined the NSD Team 1990!! She began her career as a bilingual aide and currently splits her time between the District Office and the school sites in her current role as the English Language Accountability Assistant.

We look forward to continuing to celebrate classified staff members throughout the rest of the year.



**Frank Madrigal**  
Network Technician



**Maria Martinez**  
English Lang. Accountability Asst.

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



**Emelie Coyne**  
Assistant Principal, Pico Canyon

We are thrilled to welcome two new Assistant Principals to the NSD Team!

Emelie Coyne joins the Pico Elementary Team. With over ten years of experience in elementary education in the Burbank Unified School District, Ms. Coyne has taught many grades from UPK to English for adults.

Carol Mehochko joins the Peachland and Oak Hills Teams. Ms. Mehochko will be split between both schools and brings decades of experience as a teacher, Assistant Principal, Director, and Administrator.



**Carol Mehochko**  
Assistant Principal, Peachland & Oaks Hills



# ATTENDANCE

## ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS

School attendance plays a key role in your student's success academically. Being present gives the teacher and school personnel the opportunity to know your child and their learning abilities. Missing school reduces the opportunity the school has for organizing and putting into motion any interventions that may be necessary for your student to be successful in their learning. If teachers fail to realize your child needs an intervention this may cause them to fall further behind. Showing up gives your child the best chances for success.

Attendance and academic success improve with parents' participation. We invite you to help your child succeed at school by attending each day. This will help with their success in the future.

Bright futures begin with good school attendance.



80% of Success  
IS SHOWING UP!

If eighty percent of success is showing up at school, what does "showing up" consist of:

- arriving on time
- eating a good breakfast
- getting adequate sleep
- engaging in the learning process

Help your student form routines to help them "show up". Engage in this process with them.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Labor Day Holiday

No school. All schools and District buildings will be closed.

September

2



## Fall Break

No school.

October

4-7



## Goal Setting Conferences

Newhall Elementary School and McGrath Elementary School only.

October

10-11



## State of the District

Join us for an informative night and an opportunity to address the Governing Board and Executive Cabinet on District-related topics. Meals, childcare & transportation will be provided.

October

29



## Superintendent Chat

Visit the calendar section of the website at [www.newhallschooldistrict.com](http://www.newhallschooldistrict.com) for more information on how to join.

November

14



## Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences

All schools, except Newhall Elementary and McGrath Elementary.

November

21-22



## Thanksgiving Break

No school.

November

25-29