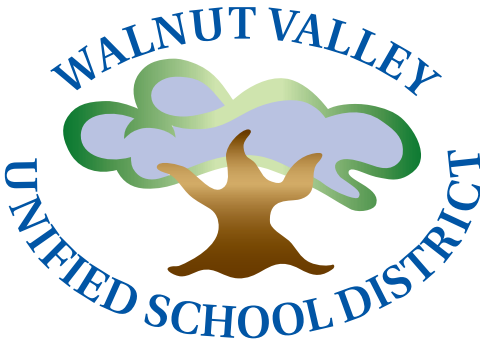


Outlook



Message from the Superintendent



As I reflect on the many promotion and graduation ceremonies we celebrated during our last week of school, I am filled with tremendous pride and gratitude. From our elementary schools to our high schools, we witnessed students reaching important milestones, each with a unique story and an exciting future ahead. At our comprehensive high school graduations, I had the privilege of greeting many graduates as they crossed the stage, diploma in hand, and hearing about their plans for college, careers, military service, and other aspirations. Their excitement, confidence, and sense of purpose were truly inspiring.

Equally moving were the stories shared at our alternative education graduation ceremony and our HARTT Program ceremony, where each graduate's journey reflected extraordinary resilience, perseverance, and determination. At our middle school promotions, students looked back on their formative years while eagerly anticipating the opportunities and challenges that await them in high school. Across every ceremony, I was reminded that success is not defined by a single path, but by the courage, growth, and commitment each student demonstrates along the way.

One story that especially touched me came from an elementary school, where staff members organized a parade of cars to celebrate a promoting fifth-grade student who was unable to attend the school's ceremony due to a serious medical condition. As teachers and employees drove by his home to honor his accomplishment, they demonstrated the very best of who we are as a school community. In many ways, this moment perfectly captured our district theme for the year: "The Story Wins." We celebrated far more than diplomas, promotions, and certificates - we celebrated the unique stories of perseverance, hope, growth, and achievement behind each student.

Moments like these remind us that education is about far more than academics; it is about relationships, compassion, and ensuring every student knows they are valued. Congratulations to all of our students and families as we celebrate these milestones and look forward to the bright futures ahead.

Enjoy the summer!

Warm regards,
Robert P. Taylor, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Issue 62 SUMMER 2026

Cheers to the Class of 2026! Walnut Valley USD Seniors Celebrate Graduation and Bright Futures Ahead



On May 28, 2026, Walnut Valley USD celebrated its annual graduation ceremonies at both Diamond Bar High School and Walnut High School.

Diamond Bar High School held its 43rd Commencement Ceremony, honoring 644 Brahmas as they crossed the stage at Holmes Memorial Stadium. Led by Principal David Hong and Assistant Principal Dr. Courtney Corona, the Class of 2026 entered the field to cheers from family and friends, accompanied by a performance from the Diamond Bar High School Band. The National Anthem was performed by senior members of the Diamond Bar High School Choir, followed by student speakers who shared special messages with the graduating class. Principal David Hong was presented with a student-painted portrait in recognition of his final graduation ceremony before retirement, serving as a meaningful tribute to his years of dedicated service and leadership. The celebration concluded with a fireworks display, bringing the evening to a memorable close.



Congratulations to Diamond Bar High School's Valedictorians: Lauren Cheng, Kelly Cho, Alwin Cui, Ocean Huynh Do, Irene Eun, Abigail Fan, Allison Ha, Aidan Hong, Yewon Hong, Junxi Hu, Belle Huang, Daniel Jin, Jeremiah Jung, Kevin Kim, Dao Lam, Caden Leung, Cristina Lin, Cynthia Liu, Felicia Lo, Eireen Lu, David Oh, Hyunjung Oh, Daniel Ribeiro, Sohan Shah, Teddy Su, Sophia Tian, Nathan Tien, Matthew To, Eric Wang, Grant Wang, James Wang, Valerie Wu, Zikai Wu, Felix Yin, Nathan Yu, Chen Shi Yin Zhang, and Eric Zhang. **Diamond Bar High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Candidates:** Ariana Alaniz-Kury, Jaelynn Au, Edison Chan, Ashley Chen, Aston Fang, Yewon

Hong, Daniel Jin, Eunice Jin, Lawrence Park, Minh Phan, Sophia Tian, Matthew To, Nathan Yu, and Reyna Yung.

Walnut High School celebrated its 56th Commencement Ceremony, honoring 547 Mustangs as they crossed the stage at Ken Gunn Stadium. Led by Principal Jamie Norell and Assistant Principal Marc Natividad, the Class of 2026 entered the field to music performed by the WHS Band. The ceremony began with a performance of the National Anthem by the Walnut High School Choir, followed by the release of doves soaring above the stadium. Student speakers reflected

on their experiences and shared messages of inspiration for their classmates. Principal Jamie Norell delivered a message to the graduating class, celebrating their accomplishments and wishing them success in their future endeavors.

Congratulations to Walnut High School's Valedictorians:

Esmond Au, Katherine Bien, Faith Bosanko, Daphane Chang, Auristela Chen, Elise Chen, Jocelyn Chen, Teresa Chen, Audrey Han, Ryan Harada, Fan "Frank" He, Andrew Ho, Julianne Husain, Thompson Lee, Jianing "Jackie" Li, Nathan Lin, Sarah Lu, Sophie Lu, Hannah Mendoza, Bailin "Thea" Pan, Ava Razo, Hyun Chae "Joanna" Song, Isabella Wang, Rylyn Wang, and Nathan Yu. **Walnut High School's IB Career-related Programme (CP) Candidates:** Miranda Chan, Gavin Chang, Auristela Chen, Francesca Sophia Cortes, Amber Faridi, Sehrish Farooq, Clare Guo, Audrey Han, Canise Lee, Yi Jun Li, Nathan Lin, Brendon Lu, Armand Marquez, Bai Lin Pan, Kailyn Park, Akimi Trevizo, Yu-Hao Tsai, Sarah Wen, and Rylan Yip. **IB Diploma Programme (DP) Candidates:** Teresa Chen, Sophie Lu, Kaitlynn Tran, Rylyn Wang, and XinHao Wu.

Walnut Valley USD Celebrates Five Schools Named 2026 California Distinguished Schools

Walnut Valley USD is proud to announce that five of our schools have earned recognition as 2026 California Distinguished Schools! Congratulations to the following WVUSD schools: Chaparral Middle School, South Pointe Middle School, Suzanne Middle School, Diamond Bar High School, and Walnut High School.

The award recognizes schools in California demonstrating exceptional student performance and academic progress. Schools were determined using data from the 2025 California School Dashboard. Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, said, "This year's California Distinguished Schools represent the hard work of our middle and high school educators and school staff, who provide our secondary students with life-changing educational opportunities."

Distinguished Schools are honored for several categories, including Exemplary High Achievers, Achievement Gap Closers, and Beacons of Opportunity. All five WVUSD schools were formally honored on April 24, 2026, during a ceremony at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. The full list of 2026 California Distinguished Schools can be found on the California Department of Education (CDE) California Distinguished Schools Program web page: [CDE.ca.gov](https://cde.ca.gov).



2026 NSPRA Publications and Digital Media Awards Winner

We are proud to announce that Walnut Valley USD has received two Awards of Excellence in the Publications and Digital Media category as part of the 2026 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Awards! The Outlook Newsletter and the social media Nutrition Services Reel were both recognized with this prestigious honor. NSPRA's Awards of Excellence recognize outstanding communication materials, including publications, newsletters, videos, podcasts, websites, social media content, and more. This year's award-winning entries highlight the creativity, innovation, and meaningful storytelling that continue to strengthen communication and engagement across our district.



★★★★★ Superstar Seniors ★★★★★

We're excited to recognize eight exceptional seniors from the Class of 2026! These Superstar students embody the very best of WVUSD through their hard work, academic achievement, and involvement in a diverse range of extracurricular activities.

Diamond Bar High School



Daniel Jin *Brown University, 4.0 GPA*

Taken: 6 Advanced Placement (AP) Courses and International Baccalaureate (IB) Program Candidate. **Awards:** Congressional Award Gold Medal, President's Volunteer Service Award Gold x2, National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, MTAC Certificate of Merit Level 10/Advanced, and Hacienda League All-Academic Athlete Award. **Activities:** President of Choir/Show Choir four years, Vice President of Books For Kids two years, President of Sing Out three years, and Tennis four years, Varsity Tennis two years.

"Through the IB program at DBHS, I was exposed to new ideas and ways to explore fresh topics with a hands-on approach. The Theory of Knowledge class allowed me to explore philosophy through Socratic seminars, and I carried out authentic procedures, writing research papers and theses through the HL Biology course. More importantly, the IB program at DBHS exposed me to classmates with diverse viewpoints and encouraged discussions that challenged the way I understood global issues, helping me become more open-minded, curious, and aware of the world beyond my own experiences."



Daniel Ribeiro *Mt. SAC, 4.0 GPA*

Taken: 2 AP Courses. **Awards:** Varsity Most Inspirational Player in Football, Three-Time Offensive MVP for Lower Level Football, Palomares 5 nominee, and Valedictorian nominee. **Activities:** Football, Track, Stagecraft, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"DBHS prepared me to be a contributing citizen by instilling a good work ethic in me. I've learned how to adapt to situations, and handle a work life balance because of all the amazing things I've learned at DBHS."



Meilan Busteed Chao *UC San Diego, 3.95 GPA*

Taken: 11 AP Courses. **Awards:** CSF Lifetime Seal Bearer, 2026 Girls Varsity Soccer Defensive Player of the Year, Palomares League All League Academic Award, Varsity Soccer Palomares League Honorable Mention, National Honor Society Senior Sash Awardee, 2026 56th Assembly District Writing Contest Scholarship Winner, 2026 Girls' League Merit Scholarship Winner, AP Scholar with Distinction, and Seal of Biliteracy. **Activities:** California Scholarship Federation Co-President, CSF tutor three years, US Department of State Youth Ambassadors Exchange Program Scholarship: Brazil

Girls Varsity Soccer three years, American Youth Soccer Organization Soccer Coach 2x League Champions, Writing 4 Wellness Mental Health Initiative Founder, Children Now Student Leadership Summit Planning Committee, US Center for Mental Health and Sport Volunteering Committee, and Bullseye Cartoonist four years.

"As a former student of WVUSD's Mandarin dual language immersion program at Walnut Elementary, I've learned the importance of not only learning a new language but also the culture that is tied to it. Even though I didn't speak the language at home, I was able to achieve fluency to connect with my grandma and make an impact in my community as both a coach and peer tutor."



Sohan Shah *University of Cincinnati, 4.0 GPA*

Taken: 13 AP Courses. **Awards:** USA Biology Olympiad National Semifinalist, US Medicine & Disease Olympiad National Silver Medalist, Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award with 250+ hours, Silver Presidential Volunteer Service Award with 150+ hours, Piano Certificate of Merit (CM) Examination Level 10, and March Student of the Month. **Activities:** Vice President Biology Olympiad two years, Finance Chair HOSA four years, and Treasurer Science Olympiad two years.

"DBHS taught me to connect what I learn in textbooks to the world outside the classroom. Every teacher I've had has

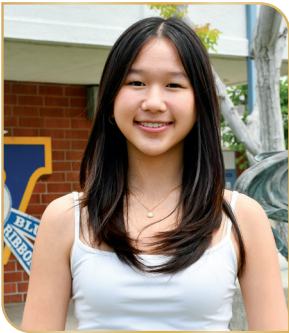
contributed to a deeper understanding of the world around me and how I can play a role in it. This mindset has played a big role in my future aspirations for medicine, especially through science classes and Biotechnology field trips that showed me how the boundaries of medicine are always being pushed, and that I could be someone who pushes them. Heading into a BS/MD guaranteed medical program, I think about healthcare not just as a local issue but as a global one, and I have DBHS to thank for helping me think that broadly."

Elementary Track Meet

On March 28, Walnut Valley USD's elementary schools gathered at Walnut High School for the annual 4th and 5th Grade Track Meet. All nine elementary schools participated, bringing enthusiasm and school spirit to the event. The day began with a parade around the track, followed by a variety of competitions, including the 4x100 relay, 50-meter, 100-meter, 200-meter, and 400-meter races. Adding to the excitement, the principals surprised students by wearing inflatable costumes and racing to the finish line, creating a memorable highlight of the day. The event was a wonderful celebration of teamwork, sportsmanship, and community pride throughout Walnut Valley.



Walnut High School



Auristela Chen *UCLA, 4.0 GPA*

Taken: 10 AP Courses and IB Program Candidate. **Awards:** 1st Place Pathophysiology HOSA State Leadership Conference, 1st Place Tower Science Olympiad Regionals, National Merit Commended Scholar, 1st Place Superior Yearbook Layout East LA Journalism Education Association. **Activities:** 2025 Summer Intern at Carpenter Lab at UC Santa Cruz Acute Myeloid Leukemia Research, Healthcare Economics Research Intern at Widya Manggala School of Economics four years, Program Manager at Tzu Chi International Medical Association four years, Founder & President of American Heart Association Club three years, President of UNICEF Club four years, President of DreamCatchers Club four years, Manager ('25) and Coverage Editor-in-Chief ('26) Publications Cayuse Yearbook four years, Vice President of Conferences of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Club four years, and Vice President of Competitive Events of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Club four years.

"My favorite memory of WHS is eating lunch every day with the same friend group that grew up with me since Westhoff Elementary School. From the lunch tables to the many teachers' classrooms in between, our lunch spots changed just like we did, but through every season of growing up, we still had each other and our inside jokes."



Conan Yu *Johns Hopkins University, 3.98 GPA*

Taken: 7 AP Courses, 3 Self-study AP Courses, 2 IB Courses, and a Neurobiology Mt. Sac Course. **Awards:** Cardiac Excellence UCLA, Scholarship to attend UCLA Medical Program, Collegeboard First-Generation Recognition, Algebraic Award for Mathematical Excellence, and Certificate of Achievement World Language. **Activities:** Shift Leader/Core Committee/Telemetry Volunteer at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center with 220+ hours, Physician Scribe/Shadow at Dr. Hy Clinic, Gardening Club President two years, Lift Club Vice President/Treasurer two years, Finance Intern Under Head of Finance at Peachtree

Playthings one and a half years, UCLA DNA Technician Lab Shadow/Volunteer for Dr. Rieger and Dr. Xinmin Li, UCLA Research Crohn's Disease using targeted therapies for potential cure, Mattel Youth Ambassador: Raised \$1200+ for UCLA Children's Hospital, Free tutor for low-income students, Feed the Need two years.

"Ironically, my most meaningful memory was during AP Chemistry. It was when our group made a mistake in a lab (which wasn't uncommon), but it was how we approached our failure that made it so memorable. We learned from our mistakes (as cliché as that might sound), and actually turned the lab around, which I was super proud of."



Jocelyn Chen *Stanford University, 4.0 GPA*

Taken: 13 AP Courses. **Awards:** 2025 National High School Journalism Convention "Critical Writing" Contest Superior Award, 2025 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Regional Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention, 2nd Place 2025 District 5300 Club Level Rotary Four-Way Test Speech Contest, 4th Place 2025 ELAJEA Feature Writing Contest, 5th Place 2024 ELAJEA Feature Writing Contest, 2024 School of the New York Times Photojournalism Challenge Term 4 Winner, 2024 New York Times Summer Reading Contest: Week 1 Runner-Up, and 2023 Los Angeles County Mock Trial Team-Nominated MVP Award.

Activities: The Hoofprint Copy Editor-in-Chief in Publications three years, "Note to Self" Club Founder and President two years, Mock Trial Club Captain three years, Class Cabinet Member four years, LinkUp Vice President and Member three years.

"The Note Project that I initiated through my club Note to Self was something I started so students and staff could have somewhere to share their stories and vulnerabilities. I remember I passed by one of our posters once where the prompt was "Reasons to Stay Another Day," and a classmate wrote the response "You will find a path that is meant for you." You never know when someone needs a reminder like that, and I'm so proud of my Note to Self team for the values of self-love and community that we have promoted at WHS."



Keegan Beecher *Claremont McKenna College, 3.96 GPA*

Taken: 11 AP Courses. **Awards:** John Phillip Sousa Band Award, 2nd Place Field Conducting at American Drum Major Competition, and AP Scholar With Distinction. **Activities:** Blue Thunder Marching Band four years, Head Drum Major one year, Assistant Drum Major one year, Section Leader one year, Band Buddies President three years, Instrumental Music Council Band Vice President three years, Los Angeles District Attorney's Office Law Clerk, and Writers Guild President.

"WHS taught me that true leadership means using your voice to advocate for the people around you. As Head Drum Major, I learned that leadership is about championing the needs of who you serve, and more than this, meeting people where they are and being right there with them."

Four WVUSD Elementary Schools Honored on the 2025 California Honor Roll

The Educational Results Partnership (ERP) has named four of our elementary schools to the 2025 California Honor Roll. C.J. Morris, Evergreen, Quail Summit, and Vejar Elementary Schools were recognized among 1,834 schools and 158 districts statewide. The ERP Honor Roll celebrates schools and districts that consistently demonstrate strong student achievement and make notable progress in closing achievement gaps. This recognition reflects the hard work of our students and the dedication of our educators.



Suzanne Middle School Celebrates Grand Opening of New Music Building



On March 18, Walnut Valley USD proudly celebrated the ribbon cutting ceremony of the brand new Suzanne Middle School Music Building! During the ceremony, Superintendent Dr. Taylor reflected on the district’s long-standing commitment to the arts, sharing, “Music has been a foundational value of our community forever, and that’s supported by our Board of Trustees, our staff, our parents, and our community at large. Today is a reflection of that commitment to the arts.”

Funded by Measure WV, this 10,000-square-foot facility features spacious choir and band/orchestra classrooms equipped with acoustical panels to support student learning and performance at the highest level. Sharing his gratitude for the collaborative effort behind the new music building, Board President Dr. Tony Tornng said, “I’m really proud of our school district. We promised what we wanted to do and we did it.”

Matt Spinogatti, Principal of Suzanne Middle School, expressed his appreciation for the community in his opening remarks saying, “We gather not only to celebrate a new building, but to commemorate a moment that represents growth, opportunity, and a deep commitment to our students.” Suzanne Music Teachers Jeff Blackstone and Ami Garvin shared their excitement about the new Music Building for their students. Mr. Blackstone said, “This building is alive with activity. When I open the doors in the morning, I have kids racing to the rooms to practice and creating their own ensembles.” Mrs. Garvin added, “One of the things that opens my heart is seeing former students return. Walnut Valley grows their own. It takes a village. Thank you for believing in our students, and thank you for making an impact - parents and the community.”

This state-of-the-art building reflects what’s possible when a community comes together with a shared vision. Thank you to the Walnut Valley families, staff, and community for your continued support in making moments like this possible and for investing in opportunities for students.

Walnut Valley USD Honors 51 Retirees During Annual Retirement Recognition Ceremony



On May 6, Walnut Valley USD rolled out the red carpet during the 2025-2026 Retirement Recognition Ceremony, held at Diamond Bar High School. The event recognized 51 incredible retirees, including teachers, classified staff, and administrators who have left a lasting legacy across the District. Aligned with this year’s district theme, “The Story Wins,” WVUSD celebrated the incredible stories that this year’s retirees helped write. These are stories of dedication, service, and care that have shaped countless students, colleagues, and school communities. Superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor expressed his gratitude to the retirees for their many years of dedicated service saying, “I just want to thank you and tell you how honored I am to celebrate you, our retirees. It does not come without mixed emotions. Just thinking about how many students have been positively impacted by you - it’s impossible to replace you.” Board Vice President Cindy Ruiz also recognized the retirees for the difference they have made in the lives of our students and within the entire community.

Congratulations to the 2025-2026 retirees:

Steven Acciani	Irene Carter	Donna Ibarra	Gabriella Manganiello	Jill Santana	Barbara West
Linda Adrid	Monica Cazares	Manette Idris	Shirley Markel	Andrew Schultz	Kendra Wilson
Lori Allen	Kathleen Frith	Michael James	Kina Mattoon	Mona Seif	Diane Winters
Martha Arellano	Angela Garay	Teresa Jelowski	Alexander Nigian	Wendy Simpson	Yanti Wong
Seema Bagai	Judith Hellmold	Renee Juarez-Medina	Deborah Palmer	Jennifer Sorbara	Shelly Yamashiro
Gloria Banuelos	David Hernandez	Sally Kim	Hyeon Park	Charlotte Sorensen	Sara Yi
Michelle Boots	Christina Herrera	Lisa Krueger	Nancy Reyes	Ramona Talampas	
Debra Brady	Robert Herrera	Sun Lee	Kristen Romaine	Susan Valenzuela	
Debra Brown	David Hong	Maria Llamas	Concepcion Ramos Sanchez	Paul Vibal	

WVUSD Employee Recognition Spotlight

Rebecca Chai, 2025-2026 District Teacher of the Year



Walnut High School’s English Language Development Teacher Rebecca Chai has been named Walnut Valley USD’s 2025/2026 District Teacher of the Year! A proud Walnut Valley graduate, Rebecca has dedicated the past 20 years to serving the students of Walnut High School. Throughout her career, she has built an exceptional legacy of leadership and service, taking on numerous roles and supporting a variety of student-led clubs on campus. Her impact extends far beyond the classroom and even Walnut High School. Rebecca is a mentor, advocate, academic tutor, and a true champion for the English learner community.

John Rodriguez, 2025 Classified Employee of the Year

Congratulations to John Rodriguez, Campus Security Officer at Diamond Bar High School, on being named our 2025 Classified Employee of the Year! John is celebrating an incredible 30 years of service to Walnut Valley Unified School District. He demonstrates a “KidsFirst” philosophy every day through his dedication to student safety and support - whether at school events, athletic competitions, or after-school programs. A trusted and respected presence on the Diamond Bar High School campus, he consistently goes above and beyond to ensure students feel safe, supported, and cared for.



Celebrating Excellence: Walnut Valley’s 2025 Cornerstone Awards Banquet



The Walnut Valley Unified School District proudly celebrated its **27th annual “A Class Act” Cornerstone Awards Banquet** on February 12, 2026. The ceremony recognized twelve outstanding Classified Employees, who were each recognized monthly throughout 2025. Guided by this year’s District theme, “The Story Wins,” the District celebrated the classified employees who shape the story of our students and their success every day.

Congratulations to the following 2025 Cornerstone Award Recipients:

- **January** – Nicholas Smith, Maintenance Worker II, Maintenance, Operations, Transportation, & Facilities
- **February** – Hsiu-Feng “Tina” Lee, Instructional Aide II - Bilingual/ Bicultural, South Pointe Middle School
- **March** – John Rodriguez, Campus Security Officer, Diamond Bar High School (2025 Classified Employee of the Year)
- **April** – Dustin Kim, Morning and Noon Aide, Maple Hill Elementary School
- **May** – Natalie Johnson, Office Assistant, Quail Summit Elementary School
- **June** – Alice Zaiantz, Instructional Materials Center Technician, Educational Services
- **July** – Nelson Hou, Network Engineer, Technology
- **August** – Deanna Rizzo, Health Clerk, Evergreen Elementary School
- **September** – Corinne Liao, Instructional Aide II - Bilingual/ Bicultural, Suzanne Middle School
- **October** – Roxana Arce, Instructional Aide III - Special Education, HARTT Center/Ron Hockwalt Academies
- **November** – Joaquin Guzman, Mechanic II, Transportation
- **December** – Jacobo “JC” Corona, Custodian II, Collegewood Elementary School

Walnut High Senior Cindy Chen Selected as U.S. Senate Youth Program Delegate



Congratulations to Cindy Chen for being selected as one of California’s two delegates to the prestigious United States Senate Youth Program! Chosen from among California’s top student leaders, she participated in an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it, meeting with The President, a Supreme Court Justice, Senators, and other high-level officials. She also received an undergraduate scholarship. Cindy was chosen for her extraordinary leadership and impact, including founding and leading IgniteHER, a United Nations recognized organization empowering young women through rhetorical feminism with more than 100 chapters across 66 countries, mobilizing 50,000 girls worldwide. She also serves as the Global United Nations Ambassador for Gender Equality, representing the United States in international peace dialogues and youth diplomacy forums, and is the Founder and Executive Director of the Evergreen Debate Institute, expanding debate access for underserved youth nationwide. WVUSD is proud to have Cindy represent our district on this national stage!

Diamond Bar High Senior James Wang, Recognized as a 2026 Edison Scholar



On March 26, Diamond Bar High School senior James Wang was named a 2026 Edison Scholar, earning an Edison International scholarship to pursue his dream of receiving a degree in mechanical engineering. The recognition is awarded through Edison Scholars, a yearly program that awards scholarships to 30 high school seniors who plan to study science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) in college. Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of SCE Jill Anderson, surprised James with the news that he was an Edison Scholar in front of his entire class. Superintendent Dr. Taylor, school leaders, and his family were there to celebrate the exciting news. Ranked first in a graduating class of 644 students, James has earned this impressive distinction. At Diamond Bar High School, he mentors fellow students through clubs like Science Olympiad, Math Club, and Robotics. Beyond campus, he creates educational YouTube videos that simplify topics ranging from math proofs to U.S. history. We’re proud to celebrate James and this remarkable achievement!

Outlook
Issue 62 Summer 2026

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Dr. Yi “Tony” Torng, President
Cynthia M. Ruiz, Vice President
Helen M. Hall, Clerk
Layla Abou-Taleb, Member
Larry L. Redinger, Member



First Day of School: **Aug. 10**
Fall Break: **Nov. 23 - 27**
Winter Break: **Dec. 18 - Jan. 4**

Let’s Talk! – We want to be responsive to your needs and invite you to send questions, comments, and suggestions to www.wvusd.org.

WVEF Hosts 26th Annual Teddy Bear Tea

The Walnut Valley Educational Foundation hosted its 26th Annual Teddy Bear Tea, featuring basket raffles, a silent auction, and recognition of Teachers of the Year and Cornerstone recipients. Proceeds from the celebration directly support classrooms across the District. This year, the Foundation funded 65 Mini Grants totaling \$28,000, 11 Scholarships totaling \$11,000, and \$20,000 in General Grants. We are deeply grateful for the Foundation’s continued commitment and the meaningful impact it brings to our schools and community.



Evergreen Elementary Recognized as Leader In Me Lighthouse School

Evergreen shared exciting news with the community on May 26, announcing its recognition as a Leader in Me Lighthouse School. Leader in Me is a school-wide framework based on Stephen Covey’s *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, designed to help students develop leadership, responsibility, and life skills. Lighthouse Schools are recognized as exemplary models of leadership and continuous improvement. The recognition came shortly after Evergreen’s Leader in Me Leadership Day on April 1, a special event that showcased how students are developing essential leadership skills and growing into confident, capable leaders. Guests enjoyed a special performance from the DBHS Band followed by a Kindergarten presentation of the Habit Song, featuring students dressed as the 8 Habits. Visitors then rotated through classrooms, engaging with students from various grade levels and getting a firsthand look at leadership in action across campus. Following classroom visits, guests explored the Action Team displays, where students showcased their leadership teams through creative trifold presentations. The event concluded with students sharing their academic and leadership goals from their Leadership Notebooks. We’re happy to see Evergreen recognized for this amazing achievement following the success of the Leadership Day!



Hands-On Learning at Quail Summit’s Science Olympiad Team

This year, Quail Summit Elementary School’s Science Olympiad team returned after a few years of inactivity, under the leadership of Elementary Learning Specialist Mrs. Jennifer Fetchik and Quail Summit alumna Evelyn Wu, a junior at Diamond Bar High School. Fourth and fifth grade team members participated in hands-on science activities, working collaboratively in groups to prepare for their assigned events ahead of the Science Olympiad competition that took place in May. Mrs. Fetchik reflected on what she hopes students take away from their experience on the team, sharing, “I hope students develop a strong sense of teamwork and learn how to use their individual strengths to contribute to a shared goal. I want students to build a spirit of inquiry - developing curiosity, asking questions, and seeking deeper understanding. This mindset can extend beyond science and inspire a lifelong love of learning in any area that interests them.”

With the support of Superintendent Dr. Taylor and the guidance of Mrs. Fetchik, Evelyn helped revive Quail Summit’s Science Olympiad team. As a Quail Summit alumna, Evelyn reflected on what the program means to her, sharing, “Science Olympiad is a community that shaped how I think about learning, collaboration, and curiosity, and I want to carry that forward by helping students grow into the next generation of scientists. My goal is for each team to feel like they are part of something ongoing, where they are supported by what came before them and also contributing to what comes next.” After months of practice and preparation, Quail Summit’s Science Olympiad team proudly brought home gold! WVUSD is incredibly proud of these outstanding students and looks forward to seeing all they accomplish as they continue to grow their passion for learning.

