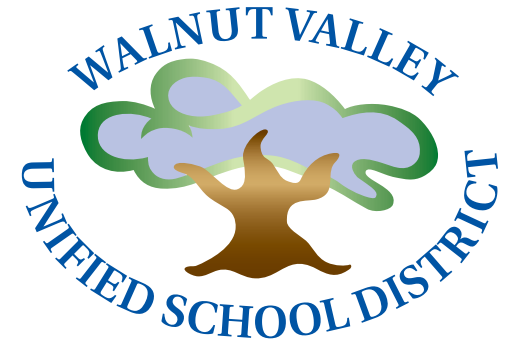


# Outlook



Issue 48 Spring 2021

## Message from the Superintendent



Dear Walnut Valley Educational Community,

A few weeks ago marked the 1-year anniversary of the day that I first announced we would be closing all Walnut Valley schools due to the pandemic. As I've recently shared, I recall struggling, at that time, with the decision of how long to close schools. As you'll recall, I eventually landed on closing schools for 5 weeks, which at the time seemed like an eternity. Little did we know then that this pandemic would last more than a year.

I'll take a moment to acknowledge the extreme struggles, grief, loss, anxiety, frustration, confusion, and sadness (to name just a sampling of the many emotions) that this pandemic has caused so many of us. On behalf of our Board of Trustees and our entire organization, please know that our thoughts and prayers go out to all of you and we hope that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy.

I'd also like to take a moment to recognize and thank the many stakeholders across this incredible school district and community who have continued to serve our students throughout this most unprecedented time.

I want to highlight our students who have persevered despite all of the things this pandemic has taken from them. As parents of three children, including our youngest son who is in 9th grade, my wife and I have a tremendous amount of empathy and respect for all of your kids and you, as parents, especially during this past year.

I'm excited that we are finally at a point, as a county, where we can offer opportunities for our students to return to school.

As you read this publication (and the many informational communiqués that describe our reopening plans), I'd like us to keep in mind three guiding principles that have continued to shape our decision making throughout the past year:

1. Our top priority is the health and well-being of our students and staff.
2. Maintaining academic rigor and a well-rounded student experience, to the highest degree possible, is of utmost importance.
3. We will follow the guidance and direction of the "experts," including entities such as the State of California, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Furthermore, working with a plethora of stakeholders, we established a variety of areas, which I would consider to be goals or desired outcomes for the "next phase" of our academic program (April 19 - May 27, 2021):

- Maintain the primary academic program in the most consistent manner possible, including instructional delivery, methodology, etc., for the vast majority of students
- Provide opportunities for "in-person" academic experiences for all kids
- Provide opportunities for "in-person" socialization, extra-curricular activities, activities that focus on the social-emotional well-being of students, etc. for all students (with an additional emphasis for students in grade 12)
- Provide opportunities for "in-person" instruction during the primary academic program (especially for our students who may not be doing well academically in a remote learning model)
- Provide "in-person" instruction during the primary academic program for our Special Education students

We also wanted to focus on providing options for parents, ensuring that all students remain with their current teacher(s), providing additional supports for our youngest students and grade-levels, and (again) ensuring our students in the Class of 2021 have opportunities to experience Senior Class-type of activities (including an "in-person" graduation).

As I've shared many times over the past several weeks, while we certainly cannot satisfy all of our stakeholders' needs, I am confident that our plan "checks all of the boxes" in terms of meeting our primary goals and objectives.

Finally, I want to remind our community that we are extremely hopeful and optimistic that the COVID-19 case rates and relevant data continue to decrease, and thus improve, and we are able to open school next year, on August 9, in a more traditional, "in-person" environment (while still allowing remote learning options for students and parents as needed).

Thank you for your continued support of our students and our schools!

Sincerely,  
Robert P. Taylor, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY 50 Years of Excellence (1970-2020) Walnut Valley to Commemorate its Golden Anniversary

All aboard for a virtual celebration as beloved retired Administrator Ray McMullen leads a school bus tour narrating the stories of Walnut Valley USD's rich history.

You'll step back to the days of rural fields, citrus groves, and tumbleweeds while learning of humble beginnings in a one-room country schoolhouse to growth into a nationally ranked District proudly serving over 14,000 students.

Several familiar faces will be spotlighted sharing

personal reflections of Walnut Valley's impact on their lives. The 50th anniversary film will premiere in May 2021!

This milestone celebration will include a virtual 5K/1K, decades of signature school photographs, commemorative t-shirts, and more.

In the coming weeks, details will be posted on the District's website at [www.wvusd.org](http://www.wvusd.org) and social media platforms.

## Preparing for a Safe Reopening



As Walnut Valley USD prepares for in-person learning, the top priority remains to provide a safe and secure learning and working environment for students and staff.

Throughout the global pandemic, District and school leaders have been diligently working conducting extensive walk-throughs to ready schools, classrooms, and offices.

The plan to reopen schools is based on current guidance from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health officials and state agencies and will continue to be updated as Los Angeles County entered into the Red Tier as of March 15, 2021.

### Health and safety must take priority

- ✓ COVID-19 vaccinations have been made available to every teacher and staff member
- ✓ Daily student health screenings must be completed by parents/guardians on Aeries Parent Portal before student is dropped off at the school
- ✓ Mandatory face masks and maintaining minimum four-foot with barriers and six-foot social distancing without barriers
- ✓ Improved classroom ventilation
- ✓ Desk shields at every student desk
- ✓ On April 19, 2021 students will return to in-person instruction on designated days (5 days a week for TK-5 and Self-Contained SA1; alternating days for students in grades 6; April 26 for students in grades 7 and 8) to provide adequate physical distancing
- ✓ On April 19, 2021 students in grades 9-12 will be invited to attend on-campus in Academic Cohorts during the instructional block, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- ✓ On April 19, 2021, all students in grades 9-12 will be invited to attend in-person during the tutorial time (1:10 to 2:30 p.m.) four days a week (schools will release more specific information) for academic instructional support (reteaching, remediation, or acceleration), enrichment, activities, or social emotional support. The 5th day (1:10- 2:30 p.m.) will be designated for senior

activities (each high school will provide more specific information)

- ✓ Every classroom is equipped with a COVID-19 safety kit that includes face shields, face coverings, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and personal protective equipment
- ✓ In offices, plexi-shields have been installed at reception areas and between staff desks to ensure safe face-to-face contact
- ✓ Signage and floor markings have been placed throughout campuses to remind students, staff, and guests to practice physical distancing
- ✓ Restrooms and drinking fountains have been appropriately marked to maintain physical distancing
- ✓ Entry and exit routes are clearly indicated to limit direct contact with others
- ✓ Reminders are posted around campuses to stay safe distancing apart and follow Public Health and Safety guidance
- ✓ Hand sanitizers are available throughout classes and offices
- ✓ Grab & Go lunches provided for "in-person" students at dismissal and students learning remotely will pick up lunches from the school site as well
- ✓ Should a student on campus experience COVID-like symptoms, they will utilize a waiting room until their parent or guardian arrives for pick up
- ✓ Regular disinfecting and sanitizing will take place throughout the entire campus

View complete 2020-2021 School Reopening and Safety Plan at [www.wvusd.org](http://www.wvusd.org).

## Academic Success!

Walnut Valley USD is making the grade as a 2019-2020 Educational Results Partnership (ERP) Honor Roll District for high student achievement. Of the 1,037 school districts in California, Walnut Valley USD is one of only 28 public school districts to receive this recognition. In addition, 11 schools - Chaparral Middle School, C.J. Morris Elementary, Diamond Bar High, Evergreen Elementary, Westhoff Elementary, Maple Hill Elementary, Quail Summit Elementary, South Pointe Middle School, Suzanne Middle School, Walnut Elementary, and Walnut High - have been recognized as 2019-2020 ERP Honor Roll Schools. For additional information visit [www.edresults.org](http://www.edresults.org).



## Introducing. . .

### David Arionus Classified Employee of the Year

Since joining the Suzanne Middle School team in 2018, David has provided exceptional customer support while connecting with students on a personal level.

After his morning duties are complete, he always asks, "How can I help?" or "What can I do?" and is the first to volunteer his assistance, including joining a Community Club Super Soaker event last year with 100 kids pummeling staff with water balloons, sponges, and powerful hydra blasters.

During COVID-19 school closure, David has cheered for students while collecting textbooks, taken photos, passed out yearbooks, and delivered 8th grade yard signs. David, a trained chef, also prepared personalized meals for staff members out on medical leave.

He spent his own time and money to make connections with his Suzanne family and has been a source of positivity during distance learning.

"I am honored and deeply humbled to be named the 2020 Classified Employee of the Year, which is only possible because of the amazing staff I love and work with and the extraordinary students I am honored to serve and help grow," he said.

"Life is about being the best possible version of yourself and this is a great reminder that I'm on the right track!"



## Mission to Mars

### Chaparral science teacher includes students in history-making mission.

Chaparral Middle School science teacher Carrie Gibbons didn't want her classes to miss out on witnessing the historic Mars landing on February 18.

"I thought it would be really awesome for my 8th grade students to see the NASA scientists and engineers live at work," she said.

The 2,260-pound Perseverance rover was making the final descent of the 6½-month journey to its new home on the uninhabited Red Planet. Gibbons felt it was important students got a firsthand glimpse at different fields of study involved in the Mars mission.

"We've been preparing for this day by looking at cool STEM jobs and diversity in science careers," the 21-year veteran educator said.

Students also learned of a Florida 8th grader who dreams of becoming one of the first people to walk on Mars in a Scholastic Science World article.

"I wanted them to witness space exploration history, see how awesome science can be, and to know that they don't just have to be an astronaut to study and explore space!" she said.

On touchdown day, Gibbons live-streamed Mission Control coverage during two of her virtual learning classes.

"I really can't wait to see what they find!" shared Clara Kao, age 14.

"And I hope that because of this achievement we will discover new things in more distant planets."

Gibbons also loves talking space exploration with her dad, Ca, who delivered Krispy Kreme Mars Doughnuts to mark the special occasion.

"This is the first biological mission to another planet and I hope my students remember it!" Gibbons shared after the Martian landing.

NASA plans to send astronauts to the Red Planet sometime in the 2030s.

That means it could be the students of today who will be making the historic trip in the future.

"I'm really just trying to encourage the love of science and to help teach my kids that in science if you can dream it you can do it!" said Gibbons.



## Cornerstone Awards

### Classified Employees Honored for Going Above & Beyond

A dozen outstanding employees were recognized during the virtual "A Class Act" Cornerstone Awards that premiered February 10. Congratulations to the 2020 honorees! View the program at <https://youtu.be/1t6BWdfl8A>.

Lorraine Gomez, Secretary I, Ron Hockwalt Academies

Steve Rowles, Maintenance Worker III-Carpenter, Maintenance, Operations, Transportation, and Facilities

Susan Valenzuela, Noon Aide, Maple Hill Elementary School

David Arionus, Playground Supervisor/Morning Supervision, Suzanne Middle School

Melody Lewin, Office Assistant, Castle Rock Elementary School

Hsiu-Feng "Tina" Lee, Instructional Aide II Bilingual/Bicultural, South Pointe Middle School

Lori Hildebrand, Health Clerk and Noon Aide - Chaparral Middle School

Yenny Ong, Nutrition Services Supervisor II, Diamond Bar High School

Julie Del Rio, Nutrition Services Supervisor II, Walnut High School

Rachel Hoffman, Library Media Technician II, Diamond Bar High School

Peggy Laine, Textbook Clerk, Diamond Bar High School

Tamie Liptak, School Administrative Assistant, Collegewood Elementary School

## Walnut High Senior Earns National Science Title

Walnut High School senior Sabrina Li has been named among the top 300 Scholars in the 2021 Regeneration Science Talent Search.

Thirty-eight California students earned a spot in the competition that tackles topics including medicine, the environment, and technology.

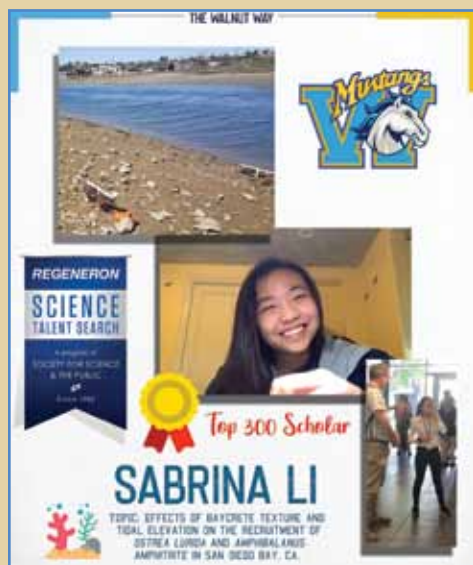
Li's research topic was the Effects of Baycrete Texture and Tidal Elevation on the Recruitment of *Ostrea Lurida* and *Amphibalanus Amphitrite* in San Diego Bay.

Each winner will receive a \$2,000 award and their school will also receive \$2,000 to use for STEM-related activities.

Science teacher Garrett Lim submitted Li's exceptional work for the honor.

"I am most proud that Mr. Lim gets some money for classroom supplies because of his dedication to all his students, even outside of the classroom," the 17-year-old commented.

More than 1,700 high school seniors entered Regeneration's research competition and were judged on research skills, commitment to academics, innovative thinking, and promise as scientist.



## Wellness Wednesdays

### Fox 11 Reporter Shares Story of Perseverance

South Pointe Middle School 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students come together each week on Zoom to check in and express how they are feeling.

"Our Wellness Wednesdays are an important way to connect with students and give them real life tools to deal with the challenges they may be experiencing during these difficult times," said Counselor Chris Sandoval.

"Good Day LA" entertainment reporter Amanda Salas shared her inspiring story of perseverance, grit, and gratitude while battling cancer during a recent virtual discussion.

Salas quickly captured the group's attention while chatting about video games, pop culture, and showing off some fierce Tik Tok dance moves, but quickly segued into a more serious topic, the "Big C."

"Perseverance is the persistence to do something even when it gets difficult," Salas defined.

Last year, she was blindsided with a diagnosis of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"Just raise your hand if you've had to do something that was difficult," Salas asked of the group.

Knowing hands immediately shot up in reply.

"I see you, Jasper, Julian, Claire, Hannah, and Steven," she noted.

Salas had been scared and sad, but thanks to perseverance and listening to her doctors, she never gave up.

"I promise you that tomorrow is a new day with new possibilities and it will get better - and I'm keeping it 100," Salas added.

"If I can rock a red carpet interview with a bald head and get through cancer - you can rock math and English!"

"Her story was very motivating and inspirational!" shared 6th grader Brianna Alaniz after the session.

"It made me think a lot about living life without worrying," added schoolmate Shanelle Liu.

The school's counseling team comprised of Chris Sandoval, Natalie Gray, and Aaron Williams created Wellness Wednesdays at the onset of school closures. It quickly took off with hundreds of students regularly logging in on topics like discovering small joys, optimism, gratitude, balance, and unity.

"Distance learning has been a challenge for everyone and these conversations mean the world to us," Sandoval said.

View the Fox 11 news broadcast at <https://www.foxla.com/video/873062>.





# Construction Update

School building projects are made possible by community support of Measure W. Construction and scheduling delays are due to COVID-19 shutdowns throughout the state.



## Collegewood Elementary:

### New Two-Story 14 Classroom Building

Phase 1 building construction is nearing scheduled Spring 2021 completion with recent installation of fire alarms, flooring, exterior concrete, landscaping, and irrigation systems. Phase 2 removal of ten portable buildings and site work is set to be completed this summer.

## Diamond Bar High School:

### Modernization of 500 Building

Construction of 18 state-of-the-art science classrooms is set to wrap up in early Fall despite a brief period of manufacturing and vendor delays due to the pandemic. Additionally, classes will be able to interact while conducting labs and experiments in a new collaborative center. Projected completion in Summer 2021.

### Instrumental Music Center

Structural steel installation is nearing completion, metal roof and decking, footing for exterior concrete walkway stairs. Projected completion in late Summer/early Fall 2021 due to pandemic manufacturing delays.

## Upcoming Projects:

**Walnut High School Gymnasium** – Waiting on final DSA approval

**Evergreen Elementary Playground/Staff Parking** – Awarding of construction contract scheduled for April 2021

**Vejar Elementary Parking Lot Modifications** – Awarding of construction contract scheduled for April 2021

**Walnut Elementary New MPR and Kindergarten Buildings** – Project submitted for DSA review and approval

**South Pointe Middle School Music Building** – Waiting for final DSA approval

**Suzanne Middle School Music Building** – Construction plans to be submitted for DSA approval in late Spring 2021

**Suzanne Middle School Gymnasium, Two-Story Classroom Building** – Projects submitted for DSA approval

## In Your Words

# How Are You Thriving During the Pandemic?

Students, teachers, and staff share thoughts about thriving (and surviving) during quarantine:

- “Using technology to keep in touch, family walks and game nights, and Zoom dance classes!”  
*Senior Chelsea Tien, Walnut High*
- “If I can make a student smile and laugh a little more today, that’s all that matters.”  
*Kindergarten teacher Lily Tiao, Vejar Elementary*
- “Reading, playing piano, and making crepes for my family.”  
*8th grader Citrine Dang, Suzanne Middle School*
- “Finding time for my daily run (even while wearing a mask) helps me maintain some sanity in the midst of this pandemic!”  
*ELS Frances Baird, Castle Rock Elementary*
- “Gardening, mindfulness apps, and FaceTiming with friends and family!”  
*Counselor Natalie Gray – South Pointe Middle School*
- “Finding comfort with my fellow 5th period Peer Counselors to be there for me offers reassurance that I’m not alone in my struggles.”  
*Senior Audrey Day, Walnut High*
- “Exercising every day – whether it’s running, walking, doing strength training or practicing yoga – because working up a sweat makes me feel great!”  
*English teacher Denise Mesdjian, Diamond Bar High*
- “Playing video games with friends - even though I can’t see them in person it’s still nice to talk to them!”  
*8th grader Isaiah Navarro, Suzanne Middle School*
- “Finding new ways to reach my kids and create a classroom community - our motto is Keep Moving Forward!”  
*5th grade teacher Kary Penzes, Westhoff Elementary*
- “Riding bikes with friends around the school.”  
*Kindergartener Grace Wang, Vejar Elementary*
- “Wearing a mask and playing video games.”  
*5th grader Hayden Yu, Evergreen Elementary*
- Adapting to change and focusing on meeting needs of our students, staff, and parents.”  
*Office Assistant Marianna Senteno, Evergreen Elementary*

# Walnut High Peer Counselors Offer Support During COVID-19

In the throes of adapting to life in COVID-19 quarantine, Walnut High’s Peer Counselors have continued their quest to help others.

“I hope I am seen as a resource that my peers can trust, confide in, and go to when they are feeling alone and need someone to listen,” said senior Audrey Day, a third-year member.

The onset of the global health crisis pressed school leadership into quickly adapting in order to continue providing wellness assistance.

“We made the decision to take what we do into the digital world as the school year began,” shared school psychologist Dr. Rob Coad.

Teens have been hit hard by stresses of the pandemic, missing out on milestones, and worrying about their families.

“We hope that no student will have to face adversity alone,” said Coad.

Peer Counseling is not a club, but a diverse group of dedicated students, 15 this year, who come together to aide fellow schoolmates. They have been trained to be good listeners and offer care, but not to give advice.

“I want students to know that although they may feel alone while stuck at home, the Peer Counselors are here to provide them the support they need,” offered senior Anali Cruz.

Peer Counseling is just one of the social-emotional supports offered on campus, along with school counselors, lifeline cards, safe classrooms, and online resources. Teens now make Google Meet appointments to chat with student counseling pairs who guide them to finding solutions to their issues.

“It’s vital to make sure they feel that their problems - big or small - are valid and recognized,” Day said.

The online peer assistance sessions are tailored to meet each student’s particular needs and vary in length

from 30-60 minutes. Discussions are kept confidential unless there is a risk of suicide, self-injury, child abuse or a danger that a student will hurt someone else.

“Our service is profoundly needed more than ever before to stand by our classmates so they don’t feel that

they have to struggle alone,” said senior Chelsea Tien.

The fifth period Peer Counseling class was finally able to gather on campus in December for a coveted in-person training.

“Being together, even with the many

COVID-19 restrictions, felt like such an opportunity to give them a small dose of normalcy and connection,” Johannsen said.

A blindfolded trust walk activity provided the teens with insight of the courage it takes to reach out and share problems with a stranger.

“It can be scary and uncomfortable to ask others to go through your hardest battles with you,” Day explained.

“This helped me see through their lens and be more empathic.”

## 2020-2021 PEER COUNSELING





## WVEF Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Walnut Valley Educational Foundation (WVEF) marked its silver anniversary this year by honoring 25 individuals within the school district, foundation, and community who represent a dedication and commitment to excellence.



Their impact over the last 25 years has contributed to creating a community partnership, based on a foundation of positive relationships, a vision of growth, and student success. The following honorees demonstrate a collaborative leadership approach, selflessness, and a willingness to help others thrive!

Congratulations to: Gary Chow, Elizabeth Fan, Kelli Gile, Ken Gunn, Helen Hall, Carol Herrera, Nancy Hogg, Ingrid Johnson, Jeff Jordan, Jack LeBrun, Helene McDonald, Ray McMullen, Bob Pacheco, Gayle Pacheco, Denis Paul, Larry Redinger, Jeff Roule, Clark Rucker, Cindy Ruiz, Yvonne Sevilla, Nancy Tragarz, Susie Vernon, Cecilia Yeh, Ron Everett (in Memoriam), Ronald Hockwalt (in Memoriam), plus Jason Wright (Distinguished Alumni Honoree).

Since 1997, the non-profit WVEF organization has raised more than \$3 million in support of innovative educational opportunities in the Walnut Valley USD. View the 25th Anniversary Gala and learn more about WVEF at <http://www.walnutvalleyfoundation.com/25th-anniversary>.

## HEROES AMONG US

### Creating a Culture of Kindness

Walnut Valley schools joined Great Kindness Challenge daily activities (January 25-29) to spread kindness at home, at school, and the community. **Quail Summit Elementary** students poured their hearts into personal video messages of hope to encourage hero first responders and frontline workers. The videos have been shared with hospitals, fire and police departments, and more. View at: <https://bit.ly/3don8FU> and <https://bit.ly/3u7joyd>.



**Evergreen Elementary** students designed Kindness Rocks and enjoyed "sneaking" sweet handwritten notes on family member's pillows. **Maple Hill Elementary** students created a kindness ripple effect with gratitude jars, letters to quarantined grandparents, and chalk art sidewalk messages. **Walnut Elementary** students designed beautiful Valentine's Day cards for local senior citizens. **Westhoff Elementary** students completed socially distanced good deeds and shared during virtual Family Nights. **Castle Rock Elementary** started a "Kindness Wave" by donning beach attire and joining "Kindness is Global" activities. **C.J. Morris and Vejar Elementary** students dressed as superheroes and first responders for "Powered by Kindness" day. **Chaparral Middle School** students joined "Kindness is Contagious" activities with raffle prize winners receiving surprise spirit pack deliveries by school leaders. **South Pointe Middle School** students wore pajamas for "Dreaming of Kindness," tie-dye for "Tied Together by Kindness," and yellow and black for "Be(e) Kind". **Suzanne Middle School** students practiced "Sprinkling Kindness Like Confetti" by completing good deeds for family, friends, and neighbors. **Diamond Bar High** students took on the "Bee Kind Compliment Challenge," cooked family dinners, joined volunteer, charitable, and self-care opportunities. **Ron Hockwalt Academies** students wrote letters of encouragement to National Guard members and donated bags of clothing. **Walnut High** students displayed Kindness Matters signs, took family walks, and completed household chores without being asked.

Once again, Walnut Valley schools earned Kindness Certified School titles!

Once again, Walnut Valley schools earned Kindness Certified School titles!

## Outlook

Issue 48 Spring 2021



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Dr. Robert P. Taylor  
Superintendent

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@WalnutValleyUSD



Spring Break APRIL 2 - 9

Last Day of School MAY 27

Memorial Day MAY 31

2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS AUGUST 9

**Let's Talk!** – We want to be responsive to your needs and invite you to send questions, comments, and suggestions to [www.wvusd.org](http://www.wvusd.org).

## Delivering a world-class education. . .

### A+ Schools

### Walnut Valley USD Ranks Top 2% in the Country

Walnut Valley USD has once again earned a top 2% ranking out of 10,760 public school districts in America in the latest Niche.com report. Scoring an overall A+ grade, Walnut Valley USD secured an impressive report card in numerous categories at local, state, and national levels, including ranking in the top 1% in Los Angeles County and top 4% of all school districts in California.

The leading research website also placed Diamond Bar and Walnut High Schools in the top 1% of 19,532 high schools in the nation and top 2% in the county and state.

"I am thrilled to share this achievement with our Walnut Valley school community," said Superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor.

"This is a wonderful validation of the commitment and dedication of our teachers and staff, our Board of Trustees, our parents, and our outstanding students!"

Niche's annual listing is based on an analysis of academic and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education along with test scores, college data, and ratings.

To view the full report, please visit <https://bit.ly/3cXyXAT>.



## Brahma Esports Wins National Title

The Diamond Bar High Esports Overwatch Team swept the North America Scholastic Esports Federation (NASEF) National Championship on February 21. The tournament began in the Fall of 2020 with 364 teams. After playing in the regular season, the team qualified for the playoffs, with top 16 in each regional bracket advancing to playoffs. In February, the nine DBHS students won their playoff bracket and became one of the seven national teams to qualify for the NASEF Overwatch finals held the weekend of February 20.

"The tournament was stressful but overall exciting and fun, now that we have won!" said junior Joshua Kang, the team manager.

Congratulations members Joshua Kang, Andy Quach, Nathan Kang, Alton Hsiung, Derek Wang, Aiden Arciga, JingQi (Jacky) Zhang, Aaron Dulnuan, Jonathan Dang and advisors Randy Thomas and Jacob Kaitz.



## Celebrating 100th Day of School

All around Walnut Valley USD, classes marked the 100th day of instruction on January 25 with counting activities and dressing up as adorable centenarians.

Castle Rock and C.J. Morris Elementary students and teachers donned wigs, curlers, bushy eyebrows and mustaches, glasses, walkers, and even painted-on wrinkles for the special occasion. Samantha Trejo's third-grade students at Maple Hill Elementary celebrated the milestone-learning day by joining a virtual 100-second Jumping Jack challenge. Over at Quail Summit Elementary, Alex "Grandma" Surdam and her fifth-grade class dressed up as white-haired grandmas and grandpas, while also marking their 1,000th day as elementary students. Even new student-teacher, Joan Lim, commemorated her first day on the job by jumping right in and dressing up to celebrate!



To learn more about Walnut Valley Schools visit our website at [www.wvusd.org](http://www.wvusd.org)