



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

JULY | AUGUST 2025
**SUPERINTENDENT'S
UPDATE**

Superintendent's Message

Dear Bonita Unified Community,

Our students and employees were anything but idle over the summer, preparing for the new school year by embracing opportunities for growth and achievement. From being named a San Gabriel Valley "Favorite School District" to students independently representing the District at state-level athletic competitions, the spirit of living "The Bonita Way" carried on all summer long.

As the 2025-26 school year begins, we are thrilled to see our students return with energy and enthusiasm. From transitional kindergarten orientations to Senior Sunrise events, our campuses have been alive with excitement, setting the stage for a year of learning, creativity, and achievement.

We are excited to welcome seven new administrators to our District, whose experience, dedication, and fresh perspectives will be invaluable as we continue to guide our 10,000 students toward success. This includes new principals, assistant principals, and senior administrators who are already making meaningful contributions to our schools.

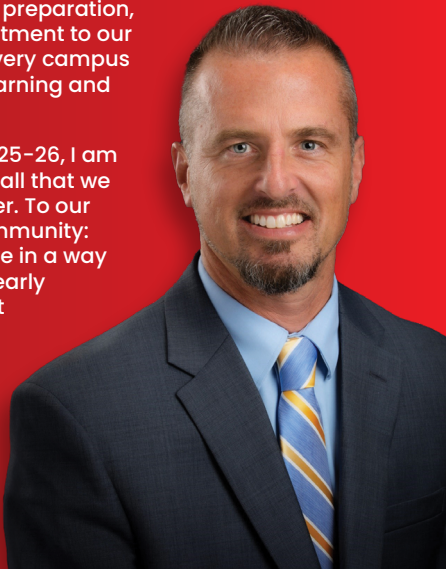
The start of the year has also highlighted the continued excellence of our programs. Our Welcome Back event showcased the incredible artistic talent nurtured across our District, while students are already making their mark in athletics, continuing Bonita Unified's proud tradition of friendly competition, sportsmanship, and school spirit.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our teachers, staff, and administrators for their hard work over the summer. Their preparation, dedication, and commitment to our students ensure that every campus is ready for a year of learning and growth.

As we look ahead to 2025-26, I am filled with optimism for all that we will accomplish together. To our students, staff, and community: let's lead, teach, and live in a way that says loudly and clearly that this will be our best year yet.

Sincerely,

Matt Wien
Superintendent



DISTRICT NEWS

Bonita Unified Welcomes 7 New Administrators

The 2025-26 school year began with new leadership across Bonita Unified, as the District welcomed two new principals, three assistant principals, and two new administrators.

Bonita Unified has appointed Dr. Kendra Peterson-Broussard as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Development and James Foster as Director of Transportation. New campus leadership includes Kaitlyn Trotter, Allen Avenue Elementary principal; Orlando Beltran, Lone Hill Middle School principal; and Kate Jackson, assistant principal at San Dimas High School. Ramona Middle School also welcomed assistant principals Michael Vaughan and Megan Kojder. [Read more.](#)



DISTRICT NEWS

BUSD Voted “Favorite School” District for Third Year in a Row

For its dedication to providing students a rigorous education in a positive learning environment, Bonita Unified was named a “Favorite School District” in the San Gabriel Valley in the Southern California News Group (SCNG) Readers’ Choice Awards for the third year in a row.

Each spring, SCNG newspapers—including the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, Pasadena Star-News, and Whittier Daily News—invite readers to vote both online and through print for awards across a range of categories.

The recognition, announced over the summer, topped off a year of academic, artistic, and athletic accolades for Bonita Unified, which was among five school districts recognized as a favorite by readers.



Bonita High Alumna Helps Students Prepare for Healthcare Careers Through MedReach

When Bonita High School Class of 2022 graduate Alexa Garcia arrived at UCLA for her freshman year, she was hoping to find community among the nearly 46,000 students on campus. Now a senior, Garcia found her place with MedReach, a UCLA outreach organization whose students mentor L.A. area high school students interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare industry.

Through MedReach, Garcia has connected with high school counselors to give them information about the healthcare seminars, and arranged for nearly two dozen Bonita and San Dimas high school students to come to UCLA for a “Ready for Healthcare” seminar during the 2024-25 school year and learn about potential careers in healthcare, what to expect when they arrive on campus, and the steps needed to transition from high school to college. [Read more.](#)



EXCELLENCE in the FOUR As

At Bonita Unified, we emphasize the **four As: Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities**. Below are some recent examples of how BUSD students, teachers and staff are demonstrating excellence in these areas.



2025-26 School Year Ushered in with Heartfelt Celebrations

Bonita Unified kicked off the 2025-26 school year on August 18, welcoming 10,000 students from transitional kindergarten through 12th grade with smiles, hugs, and spirited celebrations across its campuses.

The excitement began early for the District's youngest learners with a special orientation, where transitional kindergartners had the chance to meet their teachers and classmates,

tour their campuses, play games, and ease into their new learning environments before the first official day of school.

At Grace Miller Elementary, families were treated to a cheerful welcome complete with coffee, donuts, orange juice, and upbeat music in the quad. Ramona Middle School greeted students with colorful balloon arches, music, and warm welcomes from

staff, Link Crew, and ASB members, while families added their support with a wall of encouraging messages. Meanwhile, Bonita and San Dimas high school seniors marked the beginning of their final year with Senior Sunrise, gathering in school colors to share memories and show their Bearcat and Saint pride as they stepped into their last year at BUSD. [Read more.](#)



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ACADEMICS



Students Learn New Trades in CTE Summer Academies

Bonita Unified high school students jumpstarted their college and career plans this summer through hands-on career technical education (CTE) academies at Citrus College and Cal Poly Pomona, gaining skills in auto repair, architecture, and industrial and manufacturing engineering.

At Citrus College, students trained in the Automotive and Toyota Technician Training and Education Network (T-TEN) program. They learned maintenance, repair, and diagnostics on late-model Toyotas and earned certificates in truck and auto technology. Others joined the Citrus Architecture Academy, exploring design concepts, 3D printing, and laser-based technology before completing a group house-building challenge.

Nearly 30 students attended Cal Poly Pomona's Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Summer Academy, working with CNC milling machines, thermoforming, and state-of-the-art robotics in the university's digital and automation lab. [Read more.](#)

Students, Alumni Plate Success at Culinary Clash Extravaganza

Bonita Unified ProStart culinary students and alumni continued to make delectable gains during summer break after a successful appearance at the 14th annual California Restaurant Foundation (CRF) Culinary Clash, as they designed gourmet meals while collaborating with industry professionals and making connections. Beginning with original ideas brought by the students, teams work to create a dazzling menu item, using certain required ingredients, then plate their creations at a festive outdoor tasting event, where attendees sample and then vote for their favorite combinations. All five BUSD students – Bonita High School Class of 2025 graduate Charli Padilla, BHS junior Abby Brandler and BHS alum Jamie Cabrera-Briseno, as well as San Dimas High School senior Kyle Yamate, and SDHS alum Sydney Tatevossian – won team awards during the event. [Read more.](#)



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ATHLETICS

SDHS and BHS Flag Football Teams Receive Surprise after Smudge Crown Game

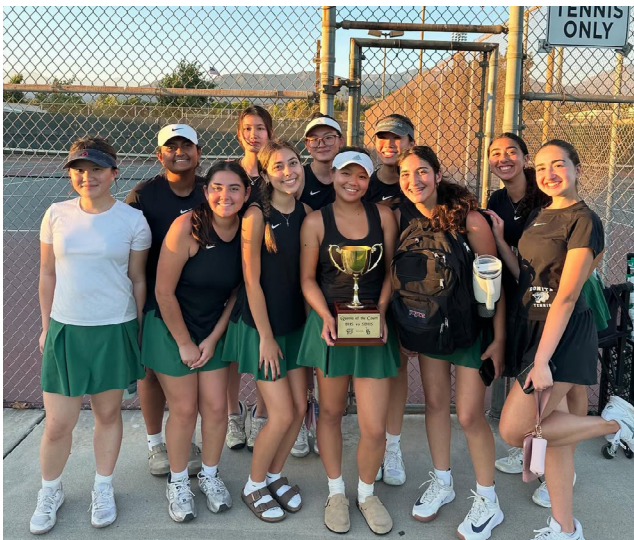
The second annual Smudge Crown game brought Bonita High School and San Dimas High School together for one of the District's newest rivalries in girls flag football, continuing BUSD's tradition of friendly competition that promotes teamwork, participation, and school pride Districtwide.

This year, the San Dimas Saints won the trophy with a 19-6 victory in the varsity game, with both teams showing strong effort throughout a hotly contested four quarters.

Following the game, both teams were surprised with a \$1,000 equipment grant, courtesy of the L.A. Rams and Gatorade.



SDHS and BHS Secure Victories in Fall Rivalry Games



From courts to fishbowls, Bonita Unified is keeping its athletic traditions alive as students showcase their skill, sportsmanship, and school pride this fall sports season.

San Dimas and Bonita high schools have already faced off in several fall sports, showcasing the friendly rivalry that brings the community together and celebrates the energy, competition, and pride that define Bonita Unified athletics.

Bonita High recorded a 12-6 win over San Dimas in the

Queens of the Court girls tennis matchup and posted a 14-2 result in the Fish Bowl boys water polo game. San Dimas earned a victory in the Aces Cup girls volleyball match, winning in straight sets, 3-0.

Closing out the fall rivalry season will be the 53rd annual Smudge Pot football game, a beloved tradition that has united fans for more than half a century. On September 12, the two schools will take the field at Mt. SAC Stadium, adding another chapter to one of the region's most storied high school football rivalries.

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ARTS



Students Showcase Talents at District Welcome Back Event

On August 15, a packed house of teachers and staff were treated to a lively Welcome Back event, highlighting the artistic talent nurtured across Bonita Unified's arts programs from elementary through high school. Representing 13 years of growth and creativity, the showcase featured choir groups, elaborate dance routines, staff performances, and a showstopping student solo.

Performances included the Ramona Middle School Choir with "High Hopes," the BUSD Elementary Honor Choir with

"Fame," the San Dimas High School Dance Team with "Holding Out for a Hero," and the Bonita High School Choir with "Rise Up."

Restorative Justice, a band consisting of San Dimas High School faculty, performed a medley of "I Can See Clearly Now," "Here Comes the Sun," and "Don't Look Back," followed by BUSD student Jaimesyn Kellogg closing the show with a powerful solo rendition of "Roar."



Save the Date for upcoming arts events in the District!

Bonita High School Fall Choir Concert

Monday, October 6 & Tuesday, October 7 | 7 p.m. | Bonita Center for the Arts

Ramona Middle School Fall Choir Concert

Wednesday, October 8 & Thursday, October 9 | 7 p.m. | Bonita Center for the Arts

San Dimas High School & Lone Hill Middle School Fall Choir Concert

Friday, October 10 | 7 p.m. | Bonita Center for the Arts

San Dimas High School Fall Play

Wednesday, October 22 to Sunday, October 22 | Various times | Cloud9 at SDHS

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Ekstrand Students Compete in California State Games

On July 17, Ekstrand Elementary students Violet Leiva and Liberty Siordia represented Bonita Unified with determination and excellence at the California State Games, a competition that brought together 10,000 of the state's top athletes across 10 sports at UC San Diego.

The Bobcats earned their spot on the statewide stage after strong showings at the San Dimas City Olympics, advancing to the San Gabriel Valley track meet and then the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation Track and Field Championships in Downey.

At UC San Diego, Leiva represented the District in the 100-meter run and long jump, while Siordia competed in the long jump and the shot put, the latter of which earned her a top-five finish in her division.



ACTIVITIES



Save the Date for upcoming activities in the District!

Ekstrand Elementary Back to School BBQ

Friday, September 17 | 5 p.m.

Roynon Elementary Family Night at the Book Fair

Wednesday, September 24 | 5 p.m.

Gladstone Elementary Fun Run Day

Friday, September 26 | 8 a.m.

Ramona Middle School Fall Festival

Friday, October 10 | 5:30 p.m.

Ramona Middle School Comedy Improv Game Night

Friday, October 17 | 7 p.m.

Grace Miller Elementary Fall Festival

Friday, October 24 | 5 p.m.

La Verne Heights Elementary Trunk-or-Treat

Friday, October 24 | 5 p.m.