



Superintendent's Message

Dear Bonita Unified Community,

Spring was a season of achievement and momentum for our students and staff. This year's State of the District highlighted record-setting academic performance, with 74% of students meeting or exceeding standards in English language arts and 63% in mathematics — the highest in District history — reflecting our continued commitment to supporting every student's success.

This season, we are proud to celebrate standout accomplishments both in and out of the classroom. Our ProStart culinary program earned its second consecutive state championship and once again represented California on the national stage, while students across the District demonstrated their creative writing, creative problem-solving, and mathematical skills at the local and county levels. These moments speak to the hard work of our students and the dedication of the educators and families who support them.

At the same time, we remain focused on fostering inclusive environments where all students feel supported and valued. Events like Gladstone Elementary's "Be You" Night serve as a reminder of that commitment in action, bringing students, families, and staff together to celebrate connection and inclusion.

As the school year draws to a close, we look forward to celebrating additional accomplishments and continuing to share the stories that define our District. Thank you for your continued partnership and for being an essential part of the Bonita Unified community.

Sincerely,

Matt Wien
Superintendent



DISTRICT NEWS



BUSD Celebrates Two Years of Milestones During 2026 State of the District

Superintendent Matt Wien addressed a crowd of community members, local and state elected officials, students, and staff during the 2026 State of the District at the Bonita Center for the Arts, celebrating remarkable achievements across academics, athletics, arts, and career technical education pathways that exemplify "The Bonita Way." In addition to highlighting the District's record-breaking scores on state assessments and discussing needed facilities improvements, the event also showcased teachers and staff who have made lasting impacts on their students, rounded out by choral performances from San Dimas and Bonita high schools. [Watch the highlights from State of the District on YouTube.](#)

Bonita High School Student Named Kollab Youth of the Year

Bonita High School sophomore Agatha Sosa has been named Kollab Youth's 2026 Youth of the Year, recognizing her growth through the organization's Workforce Development Program. After entering high school hesitant to speak publicly, Sosa developed confidence through mentorship, career exploration, and leadership training, earning a spot on the Teen Leadership Council.

"Kollab Youth has challenged me and pushed me to think bigger. My goals and dreams are possible if I approach the world with confidence," Sosa said. [Read more.](#)



BUSD Employees Spotlighted in “Thankful Thursday” Series by HR

Throughout the year, Bonita Unified’s Human Resources (HR) department has showcased the impact employees have on their colleagues, on students and on school communities through its “Thankful Thursday” series, which recognizes employees based on submissions from their peers.

Recent nominees include:

Sarah Salinas – LVN, Ramona Middle School

“Sarah is always so kind, efficient, and knowledgeable with every issue that comes her way.”

Jennifer Zimmerman – First Grade Teacher, Oak Mesa Elementary

“Jenny is a constant light in our school community. Her students have such a strong connection and bond with her, which is a testament to her passion for fostering a healthy classroom ecosystem.”

Stephanie Fincher – Kindergarten Teacher, La Verne Heights Elementary

“Stephanie is incredibly hard working and maintains high expectations for both her students and herself, believing that every child is capable of growth and achievement.”

David Sill – Science Teacher, Lone Hill Middle School

“Mr. Sill is a phenomenal role model for his students. He has high expectations of each student and leads them to success with kindness and compassion in his heart.”

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.



Bonita Unified Culinary Team Wins Back-to-Back State Title, Places Fourth at Nationals

Bonita Unified’s ProStart culinary program continued its dominant run at the California ProStart Cup, with San Dimas High School capturing its second consecutive state championship and earning a return trip to the National ProStart Invitational. Bonita High School followed with a second-place finish, marking the District’s first-ever one-two placement and ensuring Bonita Unified represented California for the third straight year.

The state competition highlighted the depth of talent

across both schools, with top finishes in both culinary and management categories and 14 students earning scholarships.

“This has been an incredible past couple of years,” San Dimas ProStart teacher Nick Brandler said. “Our team worked hard all season, and all the long days and late nights paid off. They truly deserve this.”

San Dimas High School concluded its competition season with a fourth-place finish at the National ProStart Invitational.

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BUSD Students Excel at LA County Math Field Day

Bonita Unified students continued a tradition of excellence at the 2026 Los Angeles County Math Field Day this spring, with four teams taking home medals as they demonstrated their skills in math, critical thinking, and collaboration.

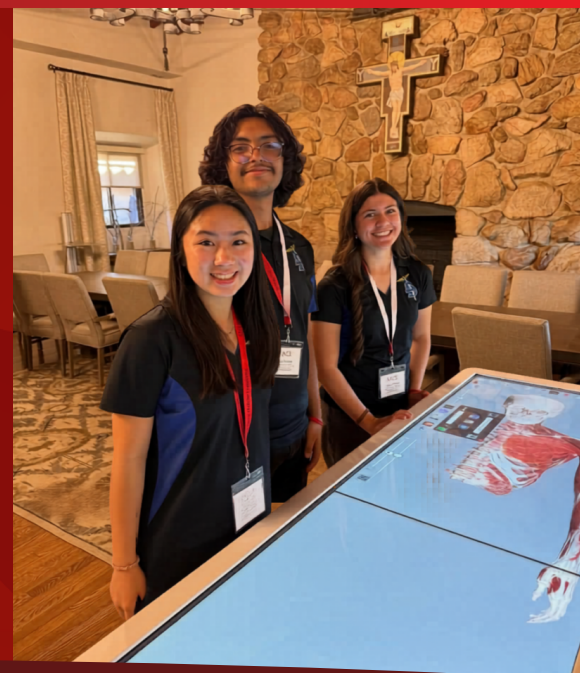
The sixth-grade team from Lone Hill Middle School and the seventh-grade team from Ramona Middle School each took first place in conceptual understanding, in which students work through a performance task with multiple parts that highlights reasoning, communication, and deep mathematical understanding.

The fourth-grade team from Shull Elementary and the fifth-grade team from Ekstrand Elementary both took second place in the sense making category, which challenges students to collaborate on a multi-part performance task designed to promote critical thinking, perseverance, and creative problem-solving.

San Dimas High Sports Medicine Team Returns to AACI Nationals for Sixth Consecutive Year

At San Dimas High School, students in the school's Sports Medicine pathway gain hands-on experience in athletic training, first aid, injury evaluation and patient care, supporting student-athletes while exploring careers in health care and sports medicine.

That preparation continues to translate into success in competition, as the San Dimas High Sports Medicine competition team delivered its strongest performance yet at the American Academic Competition Institute (AACI) 2026 California High School Regionals in March. The team earned its highest placement to date, finishing fourth in California, seventh in its division, and 10th overall, while securing its sixth consecutive trip to the AACI National Championships in May. [Read more.](#)



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ARTS



Middle School Bands Bring Home Heritage Festival Awards

Student musicians from Ramona Middle School and Lone Hill Middle School took the stage at the San Diego Heritage Festival, held at SeaWorld San Diego, where they joined ensembles from across the region for a three-day performance and adjudication experience. The festival provided students the opportunity to rehearse in dedicated spaces, perform for expert judges and receive detailed feedback to refine their craft, culminating in a celebratory awards reception recognizing standout performances.



Both schools earned top honors across multiple categories, led by Ramona Middle School's wind ensemble, which secured first place. Lone Hill Middle School followed with a strong showing, earning second place for its advanced band and third place for its jazz band.

Ramona Middle School Students Dominate SCVA Junior High Honor Choir

Ramona Middle School's vocal music program continued its tradition of excellence this year, with 12 students selected to perform with the Southern California Vocal Association 2026 Junior High Honor Choir. For the second consecutive year, Ramona had more students chosen for the prestigious ensemble than any other school in California, highlighting the dedication of its student musicians and the strength of Bonita Unified's award-winning Visual and Performing Arts programs.

Congratulations to **Aidan Cho, Lily Nord, Xandrine Torres, Marlo Poindexter, Isabella Tang, Hudson Gaudart, KayLuna Masud, Amelie Iavicoli, Abigail Burguan, Arieanna Sanchez, Scarlett Rodriguez, and Zachary Li** on this outstanding accomplishment.



EXCELLENCE in the **FOUR As**

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BUSD Flag Football Players Receive Scholar-Athlete Honors

Bonita High School senior Tressa Beatty and San Dimas High School Faith Kearns were honored by the Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation with a Scholar-Athlete Award. They were among 28 high school senior girls flag football players recognized in the inaugural ceremony, which celebrated their athletic excellence on the football field and outstanding academic achievements. Both Beatty and Kearns had standout senior seasons; Beatty was named the Palomares League Offensive MVP and Kearns was named the Hacienda League Defensive Player of the Year, leading the nation in touchdowns.



ATHLETICS



San Dimas High School Divers Advance to State Championships

San Dimas High School sisters Jacqueline and Barbara Chen capped off an outstanding postseason in diving with impressive performances at both the CIF-Southern Section and state levels. Barbara captured the CIF-SS Division 3 championship title, while Jacqueline earned a second-place finish, showcasing the strength and dedication of the Saints diving program.

The sisters continued their success at the CIF State Championships, competing against California's top divers. Jacqueline finished fifth in the state and Barbara placed ninth, capping off a remarkable season and representing San Dimas High School and Bonita Unified with excellence.



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ACTIVITIES

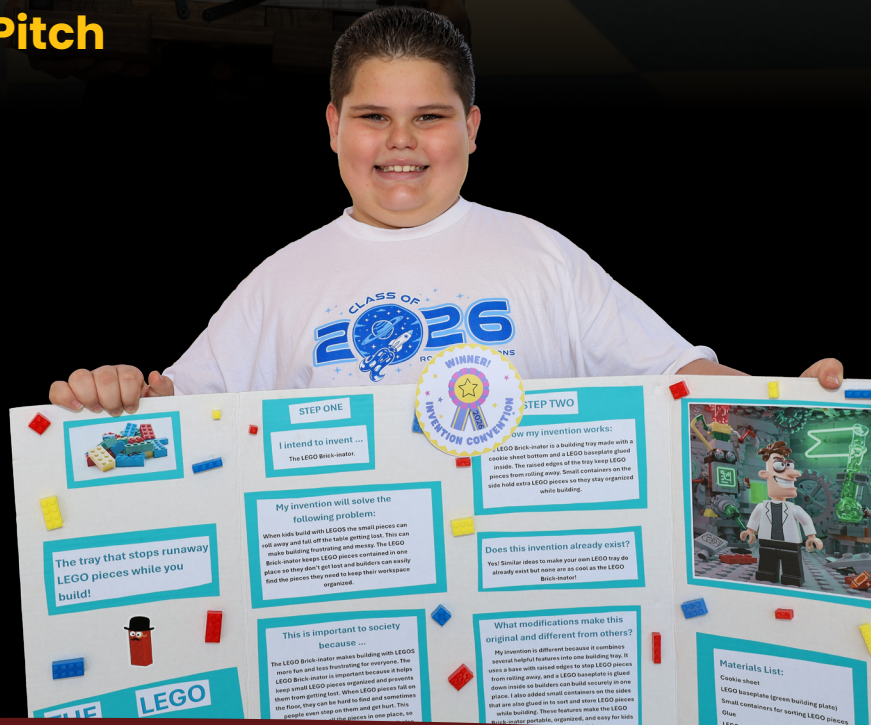


Roynon Elementary Students Pitch Purpose-Driven Inventions

Roynon Elementary students stepped into the role of innovators during their fourth annual Shark Tank event on March 23, presenting inventions designed to solve real-world challenges and improve the lives of others.

The event capped a months-long process in which students identified problems, researched solutions, and built working prototypes before pitching their ideas. Fifth-grader Brenden Garcia won first place for "Book Patrol," a reading support device designed to assist individuals with vision challenges and learning differences.

"The goal is really to get those investigative juices flowing and have students think about problems and solutions," fifth-grade teacher and coordinator Stacy Willetts said. "Creating something that can help society is powerful." [Read more.](#)



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Gladstone Elementary's "Be You" Night Celebrates Neurodiversity

Gladstone Elementary School hosted its annual "Be You" Night in recognition of Autism Acceptance Month in April, welcoming more than 150 students and their families for an inclusive evening centered on neurodiversity and understanding. Sponsored by the Gladstone Parent Teacher Association, the event encouraged students to embrace classmates of all abilities, including those with autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions, through activities designed to support a range of sensory needs.

The campus buzzed with activity as students explored hula hoop hopscotch, an obstacle course, frisbee golf and basketball, alongside calming experiences like sensory bottles and a petting zoo. Families checked in at a Communication Station and participated in an educational scavenger hunt using visual communication boards, allowing students to engage without speaking and reinforcing the event's focus on accessibility and inclusion. [Read more.](#)

Oak Mesa Students Bring Creative Stories to Life Through The Imagination Machine

Oak Mesa Elementary students saw their creativity take center stage as The Imagination Machine brought their original stories to life during a series of on-campus assemblies in early March. Actors transformed student-written pieces into lively performances using costumes, music, and interactive storytelling, turning classroom ideas into theatrical productions.

Seven student stories were selected, with many written collaboratively, while performers highlighted key elements such as setting, conflict and resolution. Selected student authors were recognized with Certificates of Writing Achievement. [Read more.](#)

