



## Newhall School District

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Ten Award Winning Elementary Schools Serving the Communities of  
 Newhall, Valencia, Stevenson Ranch, Westridge

*From 2003 to 2014 every school in NSD was recognized by the State of California as a California Distinguished School  
 “Collaborate, Innovate, Persevere, Excel”*

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**Newhall School District  
 Governing Board  
 Members**

Suzan Solomon, President  
 Christy Smith, Clerk  
 Phil Ellis, Member  
 Michael Shapiro, Member  
 Brian Walters, Member

~::~~

The Governing Board meets on  
 the first and third Tuesdays  
 of the month at the  
 District Office.  
 You are invited to attend.

~::~~

Paul Cordeiro  
 Superintendent

### YOUR HELP NEEDED TO ENSURE NSD’S LONG-TERM VITALITY

By Paul Cordeiro, Superintendent

Long before I became Newhall’s Superintendent, I served the District as Assistant Superintendent (2000 -2005) in charge of instructional services. During that period, Newhall was experiencing phenomenal growth, fueled by what seemed to be 360 degrees of home-building. So many children were coming into our schools that we had to initiate a year-round (multi-track) schedule wherein, at any given time, three fourths of the District’s students were in session while the other fourth was “off-track.” Many teachers had to share classrooms as they would “rove” to available rooms when some of their colleagues went off on break. The arrangement was complicated and very cumbersome. Still, staff and parents came together to make it all work.

By the time I left Newhall to become Superintendent of the Carpinteria Unified School District, McGrath and Pico Canyon opened, Wiley Canyon and Meadows were modernized and Oak Hills would open soon thereafter. Year-round scheduling, along with its many challenges, went away. Newhall became the Santa Clarita Valley’s top performing district and continues to this day, even after the State introduced new standards and assessments. Now, returning to Newhall nearly ten years later, the achievement is still the highest but enrollment has gone in a completely different direction thanks to the lasting effects of the 2008 economic downturn (perhaps better termed the Second Great Depression) and a lower birth rate. Professional demographic studies predict that, for the 2019-20 school year, the District will have 951 fewer students than its current enrollment. By today’s State funding amounts, that translates to a revenue loss of just over 6.487 million dollars. Loss of revenue means loss of staff and loss of programs.

To ensure that Newhall continues to be the SCV’s highest performing district, we are pulling out all of the stops to mitigate enrollment loss. **First and foremost, we want children who reside within the District boundaries to attend District schools.**

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## NSD STAYS ON TOP

**Jeff Pelzel**

Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services

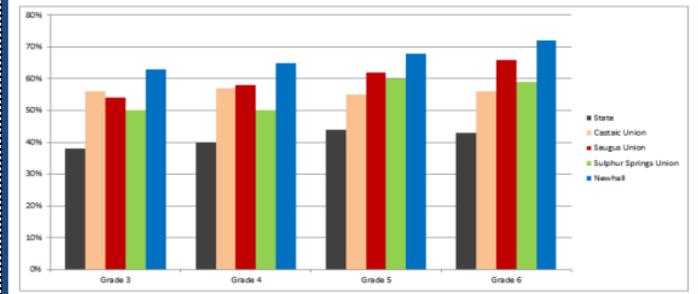
In spring 2015 NSD students took part in the first state-wide administration of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), the new computer-based tests for English language arts and mathematics that replaced the former paper-based California Standards Test for these subjects. These assessments are part of California’s comprehensive plan for supporting high-quality learning at every school. They are based on California’s new, more challenging academic standards (Common Core State Standards), which are designed to help all students graduate ready for college and to positioned to pursue a career. The CAASPP includes a wider variety of questions than the multiple-choice tests they replaced, requiring students to explain solutions to problems, think critically, and write analytically. These skills take time and effort to master, but our students will need them to succeed in the long run. In the Newhall School District, we see these assessments as an academic checkup. Like class assignments and report cards, the tests are one gauge of student progress—one way to provide you and your child’s teachers with information about your child’s progress toward mastery of grade level standards.

As was the case with the previous State assessments, the Newhall School District significantly outperformed its neighboring school districts. We are very proud of these results, but when we compare the results in English language arts and math, we have work to do in mathematics. To that end, we have launched a concerted effort to improve math instruction across all schools with the support of four District-level Teachers on Special Assignment. These math “coaches” are out at sites modeling lessons, building teachers’ content knowledge and providing assistance on how to maximize student engagement in learning mathematical concepts.

With so much academic success, we remember how that success was attained: hard work, diligence, collaboration and a willingness to always do better.

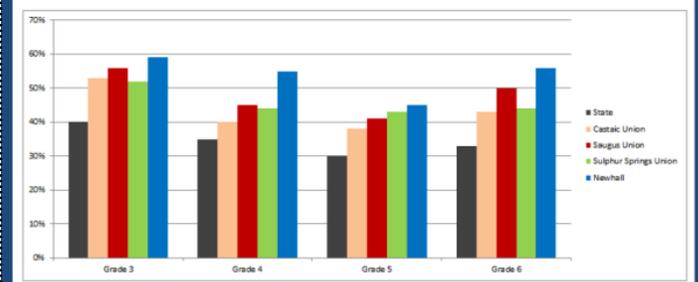
### State & SCV CAASPP ELA Comparison Data

| ELA (% meeting or exceeding standard) | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| State                                 | 38%     | 40%     | 44%     | 43%     |
| Castaic Union                         | 56%     | 57%     | 55%     | 56%     |
| Saugus Union                          | 54%     | 58%     | 62%     | 66%     |
| Sulphur Springs Union                 | 50%     | 50%     | 60%     | 59%     |
| Newhall                               | 63%     | 65%     | 68%     | 72%     |



### State & SCV CAASPP Math Comparison Data

| Math (% meeting or exceeding standard) | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| State                                  | 40%     | 35%     | 30%     | 33%     |
| Castaic Union                          | 53%     | 40%     | 38%     | 43%     |
| Saugus Union                           | 56%     | 45%     | 41%     | 50%     |
| Sulphur Springs Union                  | 52%     | 44%     | 43%     | 44%     |
| Newhall                                | 59%     | 55%     | 45%     | 56%     |



## ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE BRING OUT THE BEST IN STUDENTS

**Jeff Pelzel**

Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services

The Newhall School District has long been a district that offers students far more than an educational program that focuses on the basics. One of the areas that the Governing Board has prided itself on is its focus on arts education. Over the past eight years, NSD has had an art specialist who travels to all ten schools serving primarily 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The program has been a student favorite year-in and year-out. With the onset of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) that allowed parent and community input into how the District spends State-allocated funds, the desire to expand the art program rose to the top as a priority for parents as well as for teachers and students. As a result, the Governing Board approved a *second full-time art specialist*, expanding the visual arts program to include grades 3 and 6, with opportunities to support grades K-2 as well.

So who are these artists-in-residence?

They are Mr. John Fossa and Ms. Wendy Heard. Mr. Fossa hails from Massachusetts, having earned two B.A.s from the University of Massachusetts, one in Elementary Education and one in Social Psychology. He also holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the California State University, Northridge. Mr. Fossa has a professional background in elementary education in both teaching and administration. Ms. Heard is a Los Angeles native. She earned her B.A. in Studio Art, emphasizing painting, from CSULA. She also holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. Ms. Heard has a professional background in elementary, secondary, and adult education in both teaching and administration.

Both specialists have a passion for teaching art and for supporting the District's implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As such, art becomes a key vehicle for teaching the CCSS. For the students, a CCSS-infused art experience is value-added. NSD students are fortunate to be taught by two outstanding teachers.



**Mr. John Fossa & Ms. Wendy Heard**

## MEASURE E UPDATE

**Ronna Wolcott**

Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

The Governing Board of the Newhall School District recently approved the purchase of 1,405 computers to be distributed for student use in February 2016. The addition of these new computers will bring the student to computer ratio to two students for every device. This additional technology will be used to support the State testing as well as allow students more time before, during and after school using instructional resources such as Dreambox (for math), Reading A-Z and Type to Learn. The additional time will better prepare students for the State testing as well as increase their understanding of core math and language concepts. The District will be expanding its wireless infrastructure to support the increased number of devices. The technology purchase is funded through the District's Measure E General Obligation Bond.

Other Measure E funded projects currently underway are the replacement of portable classrooms with permanent structures at Old Orchard and Peachland Elementary Schools. The next project to begin is the renovation of the Newhall School Auditorium. The auditorium was built in 1939-1940 and the building had been used as a warehouse for a number of years. The renovation will modernize the building, add restrooms and dressing rooms, expand the stage, add theatrical lights and sound and result in a 531-seat beautiful venue that will be used by all district schools as well as by the community. This project is scheduled for construction beginning in February and will be completed in the 2016-2017 school year.

See the great things that are happening every day in the Newhall School District by finding and following us on Facebook and Pinterest at:



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Newhall-School-District/536738109738953>



<http://www.pinterest.com/newhallsd>

(Continued from Page 1) **NSD Stays on Top**

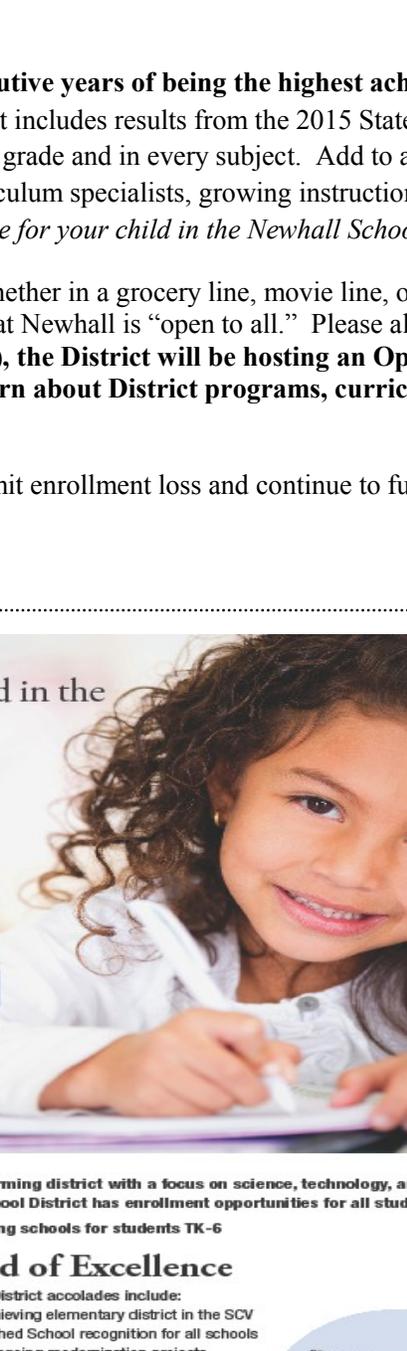
To attract enrollment, the NSD Governing Board has contracted a professional marketing firm whose mission is to tell the District's compelling story of year-to-year excellence and to ask as many people as possible to spread the word. The bottom line is simple. For every new enrollee, the District adds revenue. With revenue comes job and program preservation.

In the coming months, you will see promotional information "landing" on certain websites (e.g., real estate), direct mailers to targeted entities (e.g., preschools), a video shown in local movie theaters and on the District website, and frequent posts on the District's Facebook page.

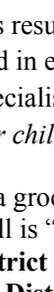
Newhall's story is easy to tell, **starting with consecutive years of being the highest achieving district in the Santa Clarita Valley and one of the highest in the state...** and that includes results from the 2015 State tests where Newhall outperformed all of the SCV elementary districts at every tested grade and in every subject. Add to achievement vibrant visual and performing arts programs, science labs and science curriculum specialists, growing instructional technology and modern school facilities and it's easy to say to people, *There's a place for your child in the Newhall School District.*

We invite you to be an emissary for the District. Whether in a grocery line, movie line, on the street, at a park, at an athletic event or chatting with a neighbor, please tell folks that Newhall is "open to all." Please also tell them, that, on **Wednesday January 20, 2016 (6:30 pm, Oak Hills School), the District will be hosting an Open House for all prospective students and their families. Guests will be able to learn about District programs, curriculum and enrollment procedures.** RSVP by calling Wendy Stimson at 661 291-4163.

With everyone's help, yours in particular, we can limit enrollment loss and continue to fund the wonderful people and programs that have put Newhall at the top.



There's a place for your child in the  
Newhall School District



**Open House for  
Prospective Students  
Jan. 20, 2016  
6:30 p.m.**

Oak Hills Elementary School  
26730 Old Rock Rd., Stevenson Ranch  
RSVP: call Wendy Stimson at  
(661) 291-4163

**High-Achieving  
High-Performing  
Open to All**

McGrath Elementary  
Meadows Elementary  
Newhall Elementary  
Oak Hills Elementary  
Old Orchard Elementary  
Peachland Elementary  
Pico Canyon Elementary  
Stevenson Ranch Elementary  
Valencia Valley Elementary  
Wiley Canyon Elementary  
Preschool Programs

As a high-performing district with a focus on science, technology, and the arts,  
the Newhall School District has enrollment opportunities for all students.  
**10 high-achieving schools for students TK-6**

**A Record of Excellence**

Newhall School District accolades include:

- The highest-achieving elementary district in the SCV
- State Distinguished School recognition for all schools
- \$60 million in ongoing modernization projects
- Dedicated science labs at each school
- High-end technology to support learning
- Award-winning music program
- Districtwide visual arts program

"Excellence in student  
achievement is what  
we're about.  
Every child is important."  
- Paul Cordeiro, Superintendent

There's a place in the Newhall School District for  
your child. Contact us today for information on  
enrollment opportunities.

(661) 291-4182, Teri Satorhelyi  
NewhallSchoolDistrict.net  
Facebook.com/NewhallSchoolDistrict



**NEWHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
COLLABORATE | INNOVATE | PERSEVERE | EXCEL

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