State of Our Schools
Annual Report to the Community

Parents & Property Owners: Please Read! Good schools protect property values.

We’re Proud of Our Past... and Investing in Our Future.

Torrance Unified School District
2335 Plaza Del Amo
Torrance, CA 90501

Board of Education
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James Han, Vice President
Dr. Jeremy Gerson, Clerk
Dr. Anil Muhammed, Member
Jasmine Park, Member

www.tusd.org
“It’s good to be back in school and able to see my friends. I really like my teachers. I think this will be a good year because we can learn in-person again. So far, my favorite class is science because of the experiments, but really I am enjoying all of them.”
— Ben Larsson
6th grader at Richardson MS

“Thanks to the small yet accumulated efforts of my teachers, coaches, and peers, I have been successful at North High, and I’m genuinely grateful to be a part of this community.”
— Kaiana Kotero
North High Junior
ASB Student Body President

“I am so proud to be surrounded by inspiring and passionate people who are dedicated to serving our students. Providing nutritious meals enhances student concentration, improves learning, and helps build bright futures. At TUSD, we are not only focused on student growth and success, but also on the health and well-being of our staff and community. I feel very fortunate to be a part of the TUSD family.”
— Kathleen Cole
Director of Nutrition Services

“Towers Elementary has been my home away from home. I love the caring environment of my school. We instill in our students a lifelong love of learning and giving back to our community. I am proud to be a member of the Towers teaching team.”
— Laura Jane Boushell
Teacher, Towers Elementary School
TUSD Teacher of the Year, 2020-21

Fortitude in the Face of Adversity

EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, educational institutions were thrust into global conversations about the role of schools as the pandemic forced us to shut our doors and move operations onto virtual platforms, seemingly overnight. Our entire community demonstrated its resilience by coming together as a team to successfully implement distance and hybrid learning models to support students while they were faced with having to learn from home. Through continuous planning and recalibration of processes, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, school board members, and students were involved in carefully making decisions that kept the focus on everyone’s health and safety.

As a direct result of this collaborative approach, TUSD schools reopened for in-person instruction sooner than most school districts in L.A. County, and we implemented health and safety procedures that produced zero transmissions of COVID-19 in our schools. In welcoming students and staff back to in-person, full-day instruction for the 2021-22 school year, our district once again has emphasized health and safety as the top priority.

Together, the stakeholders of TUSD have joined forces to create a vibrant learning environment. Each school community looks forward to the return of the many wonderful activities and events that make our school district shine. We continue to provide innovative learning opportunities, which lead to high levels of achievement for all of our students.

Tim Stowe, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Provided as a public service for your information only, from Torrance Unified School District. Some student/staff photos were taken before COVID. Currently, TUSD requires masks indoors and encourages them outdoors.
STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS
Annual Report to the Community

By the Numbers — Some interesting statistics about our school district:

Total Number of Students: 22,490
Number of Schools: 34
Total Acreage of Campuses: 432½
Total Number of Classrooms: 1,332
Years in Operation (Incorporated 1947): 74

2021/22 Projected Expenditures:
- Certificated Salaries: $129,428,000 (46%)
- Classified Salaries: $47,805,000 (17%)
- Employee Benefits: $63,221,000 (22%)
- Supplies/Material: $7,500,000 (3%)
- Other Operating: $32,251,000 (12%)
TOTAL: $282,416,000 (100%)

High School Graduation Rate: 95%
Languages Spoken by TUSD Families: 80+

Student Ethnicity:
- Hispanic: 32.0%
- Asian: 28.8%
- White: 20.1%
- Two or More: 8.7%
- Filipino: 5.0%
- African American: 4.1%
- Pacific Islander: 0.4%
- American Indian: 0.1%
- Not Reported: 0.6%

1,332 full-time
42 part-time

1260 full-time
575 full-time

Total Building Square Footage: 2,588,730

South Bay’s Best School District

The Daily Breeze and The Beach Reporter readers named Torrance Unified School District as the “South Bay’s BEST!” school district. The annual contest, which the newspapers have been running for 30 years, gathered votes from both print and online subscribers in April 2021. Readers submitted write-in and online ballots for various categories offered by the newspapers.

In addition to the District being recognized as the “BEST,” North and West High Schools were voted Favorite Public High Schools while Edison, Hickory, Lincoln, and Seaside Elementary Schools were recognized as Favorite Public Elementary Schools.

“I know it takes an incredible team and a caring environment to have a successful school district,” commented School Board President Betty Lieu. “During an immensely challenging year, our parents and educators joined together to teach our students during a worldwide pandemic. We are a resilient community that will continue to put the interest of our students first,” she added.

For more information, please visit the District website: www.tusd.org
To enroll your child today, email: enrollment@tusd.org
Inquire about out-of-district permits (in schools where space is available) and join the TUSD community!
Pandemic Response

As schools across the country closed in March 2020, TUSD quickly pivoted to an online learning platform with new bell schedules, thousands of chromebooks dispersed, and each and every employee doing everything they could to keep students engaged, learning, and safe. Zoom quickly became our new friend as parent information meetings, PTA events, and fine arts performances occurred virtually. Moving through the 2020-21 school year, TUSD focused tirelessly on ensuring that academic and mental health supports were firmly in place.

In preparing for 2021-22, we realized that COVID-19 would continue to present some hurdles and challenges so we actively planned to meet the moment. With the assistance of one-time state and federal COVID-19 relief funds, TUSD took the following steps:

- We hired additional classroom teachers to serve more classes for physical distancing. ($5.4M)
- We purchased new student desks to ensure adequate distancing as a virus mitigation effort. ($1M)
- Every school received 300 hours of additional teacher time before and after school for intervention support and assistance. ($7M)
- Every elementary school added a full-time counselor and aide to support the social-emotional health of our students. We also doubled the mental health support offered to middle and high school students this year. ($2M)

This past August, we celebrated a fantastic full "return to school" for the 2021-22 school year, thanks to deliberate planning and great support from families and staff. Our 30 schools are once again back to a 5-day/full-day schedule. TUSD safety protocols include safe distancing, masks, and adequate ventilation. Masks are required indoors and encouraged outdoors. Additionally, class sizes were decreased to allow for adequate physical distancing, indoor ventilation has been improved, outdoor spaces are being utilized where possible and to the greatest extent, and schools stagger students to avoid congregating and crowds where possible.

Even through these extraordinary times, TUSD has continued to grow student programs. With new Career Technical Education pathways, two new mathematics classes (data science and financial math), and a new Spanish Dual Immersion program, we are poised for a fantastic school year!

New for 2021-22: Wellness Centers!

Mental health support continues to be a high priority expressed among all TUSD stakeholder groups, most importantly our students. We are excited to announce that our middle and high schools opened student wellness centers across the district. The centers are designed to be calming and welcoming locations on campus where students can receive support and services in a safe and confidential space. The student centers are staffed by school-based mental health personnel and include drop-in times for students to access support and wellness resources when needed.

Facilities Update

Thank you Torrance voters, for approving Measures Y and Z (2008) and T and U (2014). Funding from these bond measures made comprehensive upgrades and modernization of our neighborhood schools possible. Recent projects include upgrades to all 17 elementary playgrounds, which were completed during pandemic related school closures. As students returned to campus this school year, they saw fully renovated playgrounds and play structures. Meanwhile, this past summer, we completed drainage improvements and general maintenance projects at TUSD schools and facilities. We also began our next major construction project: a new Varsity Softball Complex for Torrance High School.

For improved health and safety, TUSD launched a comprehensive air quality (ventilation) assessment of all indoor spaces with 2 goals in mind: 1) to evaluate, adjust, and maximize outdoor airflow and repair mechanical ventilation equipment in all District locations if needed; and 2) to assess buildings and determine the feasibility of adding mechanical ventilation equipment in areas that are currently deficient. With all students and staff back for full-time instruction, improving air quality is a top priority.
Career Technical Education Highlights and Awards

Career Technical Education (CTE) is an educational option that provides students with the knowledge, experiences, and skills necessary to prepare for college and careers. CTE emphasizes real-world skills and practical knowledge within a selected career focus. Students in CTE programs take sequences of courses (a pathway), which provides rigorous academic and technical knowledge and skills aligned with a specific career focus. In 2020-21, TUSD introduced a new engaging CTE website, and offered 15 CTE pathway programs across nine industry sectors at the four comprehensive high schools. Three new CTE pathways were added this year: Professional Music, Patient Care-Emergency Medical Responder, & Web/Social Media Design. The existing Video Production pathway was added to two of our high schools. Additionally, TUSD has a CTE district license for Precision Exams, which provides industry certifications for almost all of our CTE programs. Earning a certificate demonstrates career knowledge, giving our students a competitive edge with potential employers.

CTE pathways provide students the opportunity for friendly competition and networking through CTE organizations such as Family, Career and Community Leaders (FCCLA) or Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). In 2020-21, TUSD high school students competed in the FCCLA and FBLA competition series. Students from West and Torrance High Schools placed in regional, state, and national competitions. In the final national competition, TUSD students were proudly awarded five gold medals and one silver medal.

New Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program

TUSD welcomed the inaugural classes of the Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program, which launched this school year. The new program is offered at two school sites, Carr and Torrance Elementary Schools, to incoming kindergarten students.

Dual language immersion is an educational model that integrates native English speakers and native speakers of a target language in the same classroom for the full school day. This program provides a choice for parents who want their children to become fluent in two languages while developing academic skills in all core subjects. The Dual Language Spanish Program is designed for students who speak English only, English Learners whose home language is Spanish, or bilingual children who speak both English and Spanish already. There are many benefits for students, including: enhancing cognitive development, increasing academic achievement, and developing listening/communication skills.

TUSD’s long-range plan is to grow this program by adding new classes of kindergarteners each year—and for those students to participate throughout grades K-5 at their program schools. This is a tremendous new opportunity for our students!
Summer Learning Academy

More than 1,000 students participated in the five-week Summer Learning Academy (SLA) program. SLA was hosted at seven elementary schools and three middle schools across the district. Not only did students have the traditional math and Language Arts classes, they were able to participate in interesting and fun enrichment classes. Students at the elementary and middle school levels learned about rocketry, mindfulness, marine biology, Lego robotics, theatre, art, and Japanese anime to name a few! In fact, the District’s own high school theatre students returned to their elementary school roots to be the student teachers for the drama program! This time was an opportunity for students to not only learn exciting and new things, but also to reconnect and build relationships with other students. The summer program was an outstanding success and a perfect combination of learning and fun!

Early College

We are excited to announce that beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, Torrance Unified will implement an Early College Program, giving our students the opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma and an AA or AS degree from El Camino College. Hosted at North High School, students will begin their first dual-credit courses next summer. As students enter into their junior year, they will begin to experience and split time between both the North High and El Camino College campuses. While most Early College Programs throughout the state are completely housed at the local community college, Torrance’s program will be unique in that students will still have the opportunity to participate in their high school’s athletics, fine arts, clubs, and other extracurricular activities while earning both diplomas.

Invention Convention: STEM in Action

Earlier this year, TUSD students participated in the local Invention Convention competition. The Invention Convention is an initiative to bring invention education into schools through the celebration of critical thinking and problem solving. From TUSD, 16 students from 8 schools moved on to compete against 200 students from across the state in the 2021 California State Invention Convention. The State competition led 8 TUSD students to move on to the National Invention Convention, competing against 450 students from throughout the country. In June, the National Invention Convention results were published. TUSD’s standout winner was Shinja Hong-Lange, a third grade student from Walteria Elementary School, who won Third Place in the “Best of 3rd Grade” category for the Rosin Ring project.

This was the first time TUSD students have entered this competition. Local organizers of the Invention Convention were thrilled by the number of TUSD students who received recognition. Given the impressive results of TUSD students, the California Invention Convention asked TUSD to partner with them and host the first ever Southern California Invention Convention Regional Competition in March of 2022. We look forward to hosting this competition for schools from throughout the Southern California region. We are so proud of all the students who participated and we’re excited for next year’s Invention Convention possibilities!