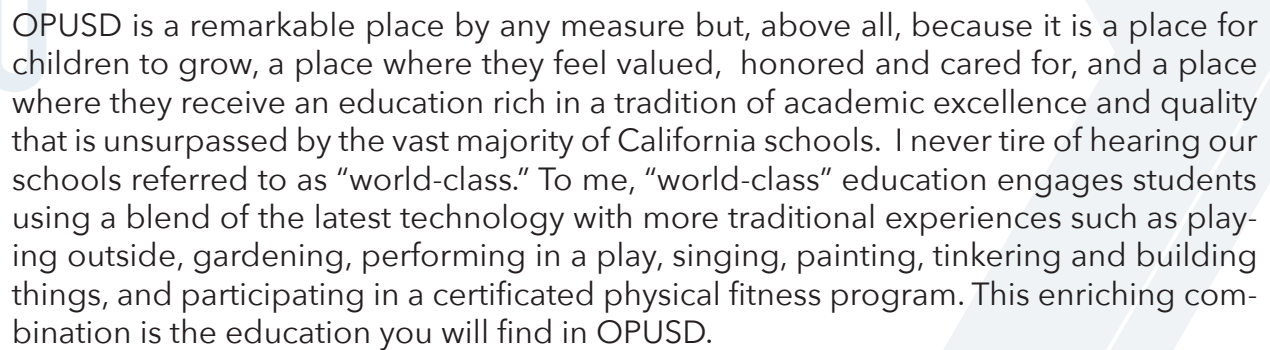




Educating Compassionate and Creative Global Citizens

WELCOME





OPUSD is a remarkable place by any measure but, above all, because it is a place for children to grow, a place where they feel valued, honored and cared for, and a place where they receive an education rich in a tradition of academic excellence and quality that is unsurpassed by the vast majority of California schools. I never tire of hearing our schools referred to as “world-class.” To me, “world-class” education engages students using a blend of the latest technology with more traditional experiences such as playing outside, gardening, performing in a play, singing, painting, tinkering and building things, and participating in a certificated physical fitness program. This enriching combination is the education you will find in OPUSD.

In OPUSD we seek to educate the “whole child” and believe that all students can grow to be compassionate and creative global citizens. Indeed, we foster character development, model ethical and empathetic behavior, and encourage social and environmental responsibility, service and global stewardship. Our students learn in a climate of care exemplified by our extensive counseling programs that nurture student mental health and well-being. Our climate of care extends far beyond counseling to include other facets of our program. We ensure that our school cafeterias serve healthy, sustainable food cooked from scratch. We strive to eliminate pollutants from the air and surfaces in classrooms and campuses, and our community continues to invest in infrastructure so that students can go to school in safe, modern facilities. Finally, our climate of care extends to the top-quality supervision we provide, as we invest in cultivating a well-trained staff that teaches and cares for our students every day. In effect, our schools are places where your children from preschool through high school will be loved and nurtured each day.

OPUSD is a District of Choice as designated by our Board of Education under state law. We also accept many students under traditional permits from surrounding school districts. Of course, buying or renting a home, condominium, or apartment in Oak Park is the best way to ensure your child attends school here. The addition of students from surrounding communities has increased our diversity and our excellence. By accepting students from outside Oak Park, we have improved the financial stability of the District, as state funding follows students in California. As a result, we have been able to offer a greater variety of programs, course offerings, and extracurricular activities. On a larger scale, public school choice improves education in California, ensuring that school systems do not take students for granted merely because of their addresses.

We invite you to find out firsthand why OPUSD schools are recognized for excellence. To arrange a visit or if you are looking to transfer, please call us, at 818.735.3200.

Jeff Davis, Ed. D.
Superintendent

TEACHING AND LEARNING





INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

OPUSD believes that all students can exceed California State Standards, become life-long learners, and reach their individual potential. Our approach is holistic and student-centered, blending cutting-edge technology with enriching experiences in gardening, fine arts, music, and hands-on learning. Our classrooms are dynamic learning spaces, equipped with flexible seating, interactive display boards, extensive classroom libraries, and outdoor learning areas. We utilize technology as a pivotal learning tool, providing iPads for grades K-1 and Chromebooks for grades 2-12. These tools support skill practice, enrichment, and innovative ways for students to demonstrate their learning. With a strong STEAM focus from Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade, we emphasize critical thinking and authentic learning in our fully inclusive classrooms. Our curriculum aligns with rigorous California State Standards and includes a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), in-depth mathematical practices, and comprehensive units in reading, writing, and phonics. Advanced learners have access to Honors, AP courses, and the GATE Program. Our professional development programs ensure that teachers are equipped to foster a balanced and enriching education, preparing students to be independent thinkers and innovative problem solvers in an ever-evolving world.

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE)

OPUSD recognizes not only the performance capabilities of gifted students but also the unique needs and differences associated with having these abilities. We offer GATE students a differentiated curriculum that provides a pace, depth, and complexity of study that meets their needs while allowing for the various learning styles and social-emotional attributes of individual students. In elementary and middle school, gifted students are grouped in clusters, creating a dynamic learning community of intellectual peers. At Oak Park High School, students individualize their education plans based on their needs, interests, and abilities, as they choose from an extensive offering of Honors and Advanced Placement courses. OPUSD welcomes parent participation and input in our GATE program. OPUSD has a GATE District Advisory Committee that meets monthly which is comprised of administrators, teachers, a member of the OPUSD Board of Education, and parents. The California Association for the Gifted named OPUSD a FIVE STAR GATE PROGRAM, one of only a handful of school districts in California to be so recognized.



STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

OPUSD excels in educational achievements, boasting the highest CAASPP scores in Ventura County and ranking in the top 5 in California. Oak Park High School, with a 99.7% graduation rate in 2022-23, was named a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School, recognized nationally for closing the Achievement Gap. Our students excel in AP courses, evidenced by an 89% pass rate. This academic excellence leads to acceptances at top colleges and universities, with over 96% of our graduates pursuing higher education.

2024 Niche Statistics underscore our standing: #1 in Ventura County, #11 in the Los Angeles Area #15 Best Unified District in CA, #143 in the United States

OPUSD's rigorous curriculum and high standards ensure students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, exceeding expectations in both standardized and college entrance exams. Our focus on quality education prepares students for success in their future academic and professional endeavors.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

OPUSD is inclusive of all students' strengths and abilities. Students are given equal opportunity to participate in academic and non-academic classes and extracurricular activities, regardless of whether or not they have special needs. In accordance with State and Federal law, the District provides students who qualify for special education access to the core curriculum in the appropriate least restrictive setting. General education class materials and curricula are used with supplemental materials and differentiated presentation methods as needed to support students' progress in meeting California State standards.



EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

At OPUSD, we believe in empowering our students through authentic and engaging instruction, enhanced by the judicious use of technology. This approach not only supports differentiated learning but also fosters critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration. Our commitment to technology in education is reflected in our dynamic, hands-on learning environments. Classrooms are designed as active spaces, featuring flexible seating, interactive display boards, classroom libraries, and outdoor learning areas.

Key aspects of our technology integration include:

- Hands-on experiences in coding, electronics, computer science, engineering, video production, 3D printing, and robotics.
- Utilizing student technology as a vital tool for learning, with iPads for grades K-1 and Chromebooks for grades 2-12.
- A wide range of online resources for skill practice, enrichment, and demonstration of learning, facilitating interactive and adaptive educational experiences.

These technological advancements are coupled with carefully chosen software and programs that draw students into immersive learning situations, allowing them to express their creativity and collaborate effectively. This approach not only enhances their learning experience but also prepares them for success in a globally connected world. Our investment in a robust, state-of-the-art technology infrastructure and ongoing professional development for teachers ensures that our students are well-equipped to navigate and excel in a technology-driven future.

STEAM



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS & MATH

In OPUSD, STEAM integration equips students with crucial 21st-Century skills such as adaptability, complex communication, and non-routine problem solving. Starting in Kindergarten, hands-on science instruction focuses on real-world problem-solving, supported by full-time staff specializing in science, gardening, nutrition, and ecology. Our students engage in competitions involving robotics, rocketry, energy science, and more.

Our STEAM curriculum extends to high school with a range of courses and pathways. This includes Technology and Engineering Pathways, CTE Courses, and subjects like AP Computer Science, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics, Civil Engineering, Digital Electronics, Mechatronics (combining Mechanical and Electrical Engineering), Architecture, Robotics, Computer Animation, and Industrial Technology and Woodshop. Students also explore aviation-related activities like rocketry, weather balloons, and drones.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS



VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

At OPUSD, we understand the vital role of the arts in enhancing student well-being, improving motivation, concentration, confidence, teamwork, and academic performance. From elementary school, students delve into visual and performing arts, with music education spearheaded by our specialists and various extracurriculars in drama, chorus, and band.

As students progress to middle and high school, they explore a broader arts curriculum. Our vibrant Music Program features Marching Band, Choir, Concert Band, Wind Symphony, Orchestra, and Drumline. The Theater program enriches students' experiences with theatrical productions, technical theater, musicals featuring live orchestras, and ComedySportz. These opportunities culminate at the Performing Arts Pavilion at Oak Park High School, a hub for showcasing student talent in concerts, dramas, film festivals, and participation in elite competitions like State Honor Choir and Band. These rich artistic programs at OPUSD not only enhance the educational experience but also prepare students for diverse creative futures.

ATHLETICS



MULTISPORT CIF LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Oak Park High School's athletic program emphasizes participation and personal growth, making it a cornerstone of our school's experience. We proudly offer 27 full CIF athletic programs, now including a comprehensive Aquatics Program (Water Polo, Swim/Dive Teams) and Girls Flag Football, with multiple levels across each sport. About 56% of our high school students engage in athletics, participating in one of our nineteen different sports for both boys and girls.

Our athletic program is dedicated to developing life skills such as teamwork, commitment, confidence, resilience, and sportsmanship. Our teams have consistently achieved significant success, winning numerous league and CIF championships across various team and individual sports. This winning tradition showcases our athletes' dedication and skill.

To further enhance our athletics, we've introduced new teams including junior varsity and frosh/soph girls' softball, boys' lacrosse, freshman soccer, and stunt/competitive cheer.

Our middle schools have seen an expansion in intramural sports, offering students a competitive yet inclusive environment to develop their athletic skills. These intramural teams compete with other local middle schools and serve as a foundation for our high school athletics. Additionally, students from our Independent School who are enrolled in at least one class at OPHS can participate in these co-curricular activities, including sports, fostering an inclusive athletic community.



STUDENT WELLNESS



PHYSICAL FITNESS AND STUDENT WELLNESS

At OPUSD, physical education and wellness are integral to our students' overall development. Every elementary school student participates in physical education for at least 100 minutes each week, guided by fully credentialed teachers. Our P.E. curriculum is designed to be fun and engaging, teaching children various games and exercises while instilling the value of daily physical activity.

At the secondary level, P.E. programs focus on lifelong health, fitness, and enjoyment of physical activity. Students are encouraged to set and achieve their own personal fitness goals, fostering a lifelong commitment to health and well-being.

We prioritize student wellness across the district, viewing our cafeterias as vital learning spaces for healthy eating habits. OPUSD has been providing free meals to all students under the CA Universal Meals program. Our food is prepared from scratch by our staff, using whole, minimally-processed ingredients. We adhere to strict no-use policies for high fructose corn syrup, trans fats, growth hormones, antibiotics, and artificial colors/flavors. Our poultry is free-range, antibiotic- and hormone-free, and we serve pasture-raised and organic 1% milk. All meals avoid peanuts and tree nuts, with vegetarian options available daily at every school. Upon request, gluten-free and vegan meals are provided.

In our commitment to environmental stewardship, we use recycled materials and our menus focus on poultry, eggs, and plant-based proteins due to their smaller environmental footprint. Our Student Nutrition program, recognized by the CDE with the Exemplary Program award in 2018, remains at the forefront of healthy, innovative, and environmentally conscious school dining.

ENVIRONMENT



EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

At OPUSD, environmental stewardship is a key 21st-century skill, crucial as our planet approaches a population of 9 billion by 2050. Understanding the challenges of food insecurity, habitat destruction, species extinction, and climate change is integral to our curriculum.

We proudly hold the distinction of being the first National Green Ribbon School District in California. Our initiatives include generating about 85% of our electricity through solar energy, thanks to Measure S in 2016, saving over \$500,000 annually and reducing our carbon footprint. This practical application of renewable energy educates students about global environmental solutions.

Our schools feature organic gardens, serving as hands-on educational spaces where students learn sustainable practices and contribute to our cafeterias. A team of specialists guides K-8 students, while high school clubs manage the garden at Oak Park High School.

Incorporating California Environmental Principles and Concepts into our curriculum, we address climate change and environmental issues through NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) and various courses and clubs at OPHS. Field trips, like the 5th-grade expedition to Santa Cruz Island and 6th-grade outdoor education, deepen students' understanding of biodiversity and conservation efforts, such as the Island Fox's restoration.

Facility-wise, we focus on eco-friendly practices: outdoor learning spaces, solar shade structures for electricity, LED lighting, advanced air filtration systems exceeding quality standards, and robust recycling and garden programs. Our Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals further our commitment to the environment.

OPUSD's recognition as the Best of Green Schools by the Green Schools National Network and U.S. Green Building Council in 2018 is a testament to our dedication to sustainable education.

CLIMATE OF CARE



SCHOOL & DISTRICT SIZE - A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE IN REDUCING AND MANAGING STRESS

As a small school district with around 4,400 students, OPUSD prides itself on maintaining a family-like atmosphere in our schools, which are smaller than most in California. This close-knit environment, where people know each other well, extends to our comprehensive approach to student well-being. Our commitment to maintaining reasonable class sizes throughout TK-12, unlike districts that focus on smaller classes only in early grades, fosters personalized attention and support. This is complemented by our robust counseling and wellness programs, featuring full-time counselors in every elementary school and a team of wellness and college/career counselors in middle and high schools. Our Wellness Centers at MCMS and OPHS, along with developing elementary spaces, collaborate with Ventura County Behavioral Health for student support. The partnership with Stanford University's Challenge Success program enhances our stress management strategies. Our progressive calendar, with no homework during certain breaks, supports a balanced academic life.

The Diversity and Equity Task Force (DETF) and student support programs like Safe School Ambassadors and Advanced Peer Counseling contribute to our inclusive community. Additionally, our Wellness Council, comprising counselors, staff, and parents, addresses mental health, nutrition, and physical fitness needs. Guided by our "Safe Kids Task Force," OPUSD creates a nurturing, stress-free environment that is conducive to holistic student development in our uniquely intimate setting.



SAFE SCHOOLS ARE A PRIORITY

OPUSD is committed to maximizing student and staff safety with a comprehensive approach. Recognizing that true safety extends beyond external measures, we focus on the internal well-being of our community. Our counselors play a key role in proactively managing bullying and student mental health issues, addressing potential risks before they escalate. Emphasizing a culture of love, acceptance, and kindness, we ensure that bullying or harassment is never tolerated.

Our safety strategy includes various programs like Safe School Ambassadors, Peer Counselors at Oak Park High School, and WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) at Medea Creek Middle School, fostering student connectedness. Additionally, campus supervisors routinely patrol our schools, supplemented by over 170 security cameras, fencing, and crash gates. The implementation of the Raptor Visitor ID Badge System further enhances campus security.

We regularly conduct Earthquake, Fire, and Disaster Preparedness drills, underpinned by comprehensive Emergency Operations Plans. Our focus on Bullying Prevention includes reporting systems, restorative practices, and counseling prevention programs.

Collaborating with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, we ensure drills and facilities updates are effective and relevant. Our Safety and Security Task Force, comprising staff, parents, law enforcement, CERT members, and other representatives, conducts a continuous review of safety concerns and policies.

A District Safety Consultant provides training for all staff, aligning with County and State training standards. This holistic approach to safety, encompassing the Climate of Care and MTSS/Wellness Teams, is our best tool for preventing and managing safety concerns, ensuring a secure and nurturing environment for our learning community.

LEARNING CAMPUS



CAMPUSES OF CREATIVITY

Located in the hillsides of Ventura County, surrounded by the Santa Monica Mountains National Park and only eight miles from the Pacific Ocean, the community of Oak Park is an attractive, suburban community. OPUSD is comprised of one early education preschool, three elementary schools, one middle school, one comprehensive high school, one continuation school, one independent study school, and the District's administrative office. The campuses of our schools blend beautifully within the clean and well-kept neighborhoods that surround them. Each campus is spacious and contained within a park-like setting. Many new landscape projects incorporate native and other drought-tolerant plantings to ensure water conservation. Our six campuses support more than 900 trees and we continue to plant more each year.

Thanks to the passage of local school facilities bond measures in 2008 and 2016, the community of Oak Park has invested millions of dollars in OPUSD's facilities. Our schools are safe, modern, comfortable, and innovative learning environments. We use only organic fertilizers on our landscape and turf and never use synthetic herbicides, pesticides, or rodenticides. We use green cleaning products to protect our students and staff.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Students are counseled to find the post-secondary option that best fits their individual needs and passions, whether this is a pathway that leads to community college, career education, the military, or a four-year college or university. Our students are selected to some of the most highly selective colleges in the nation. Each year the list is impressive as it typically includes admissions to Ivy League universities, as well as Stanford, MIT, Caltech, USC, and the military academies. Our students attend all of the University of California schools, the California State Universities, small liberal arts colleges, as well as private and public universities across the United States and internationally. Our students consistently receive scholarships and awards totaling in the millions of dollars annually.

CLUB OAK PARK



CLUB OAK PARK: Extended Care Program

Understanding the childcare needs of our families, OPUSD proudly offers "Club Oak Park," a before and after school care program available from 6:45 am to 6:00 pm each school day. This program, provided at each school site (BES, OHES, ROES, MCMS), is designed to accommodate the schedules of our busy families, including non-school days like staff development days and the first three weeks of the summer break, known as the "Summer Gap" program.

Club Oak Park is staffed by highly trained and carefully selected professionals who ensure a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment. Daily activities are diverse, ranging from homework support to a variety of STEAM activities including art, science, and technology. Our commitment to the OPUSD Climate of Care is evident in the program's approach, catering to the individual needs and interests of each student. The program offers a balance of indoor and outdoor activities, aligned with our wellness policy, and provides healthy snacks daily.

With sufficient capacity to accommodate all families in need of extended care, Club Oak Park is an integral part of our community, extending the nurturing and child-centered ethos of our schools to every student enrolled in the program.

COMMUNITY



SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

Oak Park is a wonderful community with our school system at the center. The community has always supported the schools, and the schools recognize their duty to serve the community. Integral to this relationship are the volunteer parent organizations, whose generous contributions play a crucial role in enhancing our educational offerings. Parents, alumni, and businesses generously provide support that goes beyond what state funding alone can cover.

Each school in OPUSD is bolstered by a Parent Teacher Organization, actively contributing to the enrichment of our educational programs. Oak Park High School benefits from several booster clubs dedicated to supporting athletic teams, music, and the performing arts. The Oak Park Education Foundation is another pillar of support, providing significant aid across the district. These organizations are not just about financial contributions; they represent the spirit of community involvement and dedication that is essential to our schools' success.

Our commitment to diversity and inclusivity is a cornerstone of our educational philosophy. We welcome students from a variety of backgrounds through our non-selective admissions policy, thereby creating a vibrant and dynamic learning environment. Since the 2004-05 school year, the District of Choice (DOC) program has enabled over half of our students to come from outside the district. Comprising one preschool, three elementary schools (TK-5), one middle school (6-8), one high school (9-12), an independent school, and an alternative education high school, OPUSD serves a diverse student body. Located in Ventura County and adjacent to Los Angeles County, our high school attracts students from the San Fernando Valley, Conejo Valley, and Simi Valley. This diversity brings together a range of experiences and perspectives, enriching our community and upholding our high academic standards.

RECOGNITION

AWARD WINNING EXCELLENCE

National Blue Ribbon Schools

- Brookside Elementary School
- Oak Hills Elementary School
- Medea Creek Middle School
- Oak Park High School

United States Green Ribbon Schools Award, U.S. Green Buildings Council

- Best Green School System - 2018

California Department of Education

- Exemplary School District - 2018, 2019 (One of only 22 California school districts to be so named)
- All Comprehensive School - California Distinguished Schools - Oak Park High School (2019, 2021)
- California Exemplary Career Technical Education - 2019
- California Exemplary Physical Activity and Nutrition Education Program - 2018

All Comprehensive School are California Gold Ribbon and Distinguished Schools

Five-Star GATE Award - California Association for the Gifted - 2013

California School Boards Association Golden Bell Awards

Aerospace Industries Association - Team America Rocketry Challenge 2012, 2016, 2018

American School Boards Journal - Magna Awards, Safe Schools Ambassador Program



Oak Park Neighborhood School (Preschool) - 1010 Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA 91377

Oak Hills Elementary School - 1010 Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA 91377

Red Oak Elementary School – 4857 Rockfield Street, Oak Park, CA 91377

Brookside Elementary School – 165 N. Satinwood Avenue, Oak Park, CA 91377

Medea Creek Middle School – 1002 Doubletree Road, Oak Park, CA 91377

Oak Park High School – 899 N. Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA 91377

Oak View High School – 5701 Conifer Street, Oak Park, CA 91377

Oak Park Independent School – 5801 Conifer Street, Oak Park, CA 91377

Oak Park Unified School District – 5801 Conifer Street, Oak Park, CA 91377