

Oxnard School District (2-11-15)
State of the District Address
By OSD Superintendent Cesar Morales

WELCOME

REASONS TO CELEBRATE

Speech:

I stand before you as a proud Superintendent of the Oxnard School District serving 17,000 TK-8 and 800 preschool students. We have accomplished a lot in the year and half since I began my journey in 2013. My first year focused on preparing the school district for all the changes associated with the District reconfiguration. We transitioned from k-6 and 7-8 schools to offering parents a choice of k-5, k-8 or 6-8 programs for your children's education experiences. I want to thank the parents for collaborating with school and district staff during this transition.

The reconfiguration featured the implementation of three 6-8 Magnet Academies, K-8 schools with Dual language programs and K-5 schools that are developing a strand focus this year aligned with an element of STEAM—science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. It is important to note that ELM Elementary also has a dual language immersion program in addition to developing their strand focus as well. Frank Middle School Academy focuses on Marine Biology and Robotics, Haydock Middle School features Environmental Science and Visual and Performing Arts and Fremont Middle School represent an Environmental Science and 3-D design academy.

The K-5 schools are all developing one integrated unit in all grade levels this year focusing on their strand focus. We built on the Soria k-8 school success with the dual language immersion program and expanded our dual language immersion program at all the reconfigured K-8 schools. This allowed us to offer a dual language immersion program options throughout Oxnard. Prior to this year, Soria was the only K-8 school.

This year Curren, Driffill, Kamala, Chavez and Lemonwood all implemented their K-8 program. Curren, Driffill and Kamala all added 7th and 8th graders this school year, while Chavez and Lemonwood only added 7th grade but will be adding 8th grade next year. In addition to implementing the dual immersion program, K-8 schools developed master schedules that supported the secondary grades with the inclusion of an elective. Furthermore, the 7th and 8th grade experience at a K-8 school has enrollment in these grade levels between 110 to 140 students which is a much smaller grade level in comparison to a traditional middle school. Our goal is that the K-8 schools will develop their strand focus with an element of STEAM for next school year.

Why is having schools focus on elements of STEAM important for the students of Oxnard? Many of the jobs our students will be competing for have not been created yet. The trends in the global economy have shifted from manufacturing jobs to jobs in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics areas. We want our students to receive an education that exposes them to experiences preparing them for the university experience and work place of the future.

In alignment with the State of California and school districts throughout the majority of the United States, the Oxnard School District is implementing Common Core standards in all content areas. Our teachers have been working hard developing units individually or in grade level teams as they deliver instruction that facilitates students developing strong communication skills, collaboration skills, creativity and critical thinking. I would like to take this time to thank our OSD teachers for their hard work attending trainings and for all their preparation during this common core era.

How do we access the common core?

The importance of strong language and reading skills is essential for our students to succeed in the Common Core era. Our students need to learn the academic language in every content area and develop the ability to interpret complex informational texts. Failure to have a strong foundation in language and reading skills will not allow our students to fully engage in the classroom of today or in the workplace of tomorrow.

As a school district with 55% English Learners, it is essential that all staff focus on how to best deliver instruction to English Learners and how to respond to their specific language needs. This year, the Oxnard School District is reviewing our English Learner Master Plan. This is giving us an opportunity to validate our best practices for English Learners as well as an opportunity to refine our guidelines and practices of how to best meet the needs of English Learners in the Common Core era.

It is extremely important that we all share in the goal of the reclassification of English Learners. Students that enter our school district in Kindergarten should obtain reclassification status while in the Oxnard School District before they transition to high school. This gives our students the opportunity to participate in a college preparatory class schedule beginning in the 9th grade.

Parents, I want you to communicate with your child's teacher, principal and attend all school meetings. It is important to be informed in all the programs our school district and your school have to offer. We have opportunities for you to participate in general meetings, school site council meetings, English Learner Advisory Council meetings and your school's PTA or PTO. We need to collaborate

with you in order to best meet the needs of your child.

As we begin to plan for next school year, I will need to continue to work with our Board of Trustees and staff to narrow the focus of our goals. We need to focus on the fundamentals of language and reading across all content areas as we work with English Learners or students that may be below grade level. While we are preparing to adopt a new set of Math materials next year, we need to also focus on helping all students develop the academic language necessary to access the new Math curriculum. Furthermore, we will need to measure our progress in Language Arts, math and Language Development. It will be important for us to select targeted assessments that give us the information we need for progress monitoring and to make decisions on intervention.

Next year, we will also be preparing for a future State approved Language Arts/ELD adoption of curriculum materials for a future year.

I would also like to give you an update on our enrollment and our present school capacity. We continue to look for space to build new schools in order to keep up with the enrollment growth in Oxnard. We have already begun the process to do testing on the Doris and Patterson site as well as exploring an additional Southeast site. We hope that there will be a State Bond on the ballot in 2016 which will help us fund the building of new schools. This will help us respond to enrollment growth and give us the opportunity to implement Grade Span Adjustment in the lower grades. We presently are exploring options that could allow us to implement lower class size in kindergarten and first grade next school year. Doing so will make it essential that we build new schools in the future to sustain this.

Before I conclude my speech portion, I would like to give our schools a “shout out” acknowledgement:

Shout Outs!!!

Preschool

- Provides high quality school readiness services for the youngest members of the Oxnard community
- Opening of three new and upgraded State Preschool facilities (Sierra Linda, Ritchen, and Rose Avenue).
- Screenings for children to assist parents in the early identification of communication, personal-social, and physical developmental concerns, and assistance navigating the complex community based systems of care.

After School Program

- Over 2,000 students Participate Daily
- Elementary Schools
 - Maritime Museum
 - Holiday Parade
- Middle School Students
 - UCLA I'm Going to College
 - Museum of Tolerance
 - Santa to the Sea
- "Surf, Sand and Celebrating the Season"
 - First Place Winner
 - Best Use of Theme

- MOUSE SQUAD
- Program Components
- Literacy
- Math
- Art
- Physical Activity
- Homework Support
- Special Enrichment

Brekke Elementary

- Developing Science and Inquiry strand
- Conducting experiments with students monthly
- Focusing on scientific process] Partnering with Pacifica High School Interact Club and chemistry department
- Working with TECA students

Chavez K-8

- Dual Language Immersion Program
- Partnership with Boys and Girls Club, Proctor and Gamble
- Engineers and Scientists conducting Science lessons in Science Labs
- Partnering with Ventura County Health promoting nutrition, gardening and healthy living
- CHAMPs/Anti-bullying Campaign
- Field Trips to Museum of Agriculture in Santa Paula
- Museum of Tolerance Grant
- Reading Recognition Champions for Kindergartners

Curren K-8

- Dual language Immersion Program
- Working with the school leadership team, ELAC, and PTA the Curren School Site Council made the brave and creative decision to use our site funds to employ 7 extra support teachers to work in the following areas:
 - o 3 ESTs to provide k-5 daily PE instruction to all students which is

scheduled in a way to provide small group instruction for all students as well.

- o 2 ESTs focused on intensive small group reading intervention.
- o 2 ESTs focused on arts and enrichment opportunities.

Driffill K-8

- Dual Language Immersion Program
- Developing sports program Champs implemented school wide
- Focus on technology implementation. Use of Apple TVs in the classroom
- Community Services focused
- Partnerships
- o Public Health
- o Parent Project
- o Project Smile for Dental Service
- o Food Share

ELM Elementary

- Dual Language Immersion Program through 2nd grade
- 1) Elm University:
 - partnership with California Lutheran University; Elm a professional development school
 - teacher candidates already on campus through June 18th (last day of school); our Elm master teachers guiding and molding future teachers
 - professional development for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade teachers through the California Reading & Literature Project at Cal Lutheran University; 3 year plan
 - parent classes coming for Spanish literacy and adult ESL so that parents are also going to school to learn
 - a scholar, college and career bound culture for Elm; with students, teachers, and parents “going to college”
 - all students TK-5 on a field trip visiting a college/university: TK/K/1 = Moorpark College; 2/3 = CSUCI; 4/5 = CLU
 - Environmental strand focus of developing “global citizenship” in our students = Elm developing Environmental Learning in Motion

Frank Middle School Academy of Marine Biology and Robotics

- CSU Channel Islands : “Crossing the Channel Program” and Santa Rosa Island Research Program
- UCSB and our MESA Program
- Oxnard College
- Mouse Squad
- Santa to the Sea Half Marathon (Three Oxnard Middle Schools won for high levels of Spirit)
- Frank Robotics Team competing in its first Robotics Competition Feb. 6, 2014

- -New Comer program working with Camarillo Bird Museum in the study of native and rare birds
- -Successful implementation of our Bully Awareness Prevention Program (OLWEUS) and our WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) programs to welcome our new 6th and 7th grade students
- Entire 6th grade was able to visit the California Science Center to view the Pompeii exhibit and the
- Entire 7th and 8th grade students will learn and visit either a Water Treatment Plant or the UCSB Marine Science Facility due to the support of LCFF funding for field trips
- At Frank, one hundred students will be challenged to propose solutions to California's water crisis following their own investigations on water related topics. Students interested in the relationship between water and agricultural usage may choose to investigate water budgets for a variety of local crops. Connections to mathematics and will be integrated with financial literacy.

Fremont Middle School Academy of Environmental Science and 3D Design

- Fremont has established a strong environmental science program.
- MESA Club partners with UCSB and we have now added a MESA elective to our master schedule. □ The instructional garden hosts environmental science elective classes, science classes from all grades, and our gardening club.
- We have also hosted CSUCI students as they have facilitated science labs with our 7th graders.
- At Fremont, 470 students will be challenged by four teachers to "Fly Like a Falcon" as they design, build and engineer a test wing using a 3D printer while investigating principles and history of flight. Following the fully integrated learning approach to wing design, students will then take their seat in a real flight simulator and experience for themselves the thrill of aeronautical travel.

Harrington

- The most exciting thing that is happening at Harrington is that Staff, Parents and Community Members are coming together to provide continuous support to our students and families.
- implementing the new education standards and develop our strand focus
- Preparing for move into new school in December of 2015
- Partners
 - o Pepperdine University, Student Mentors and Tutors for our Afterschool Program
 - o California State University, Channel Islands, Student Teachers for Special Education Programs
 - o California Lutheran University, Student Teachers for General Education and Counseling Interns
 - o University of Southern California, Counseling Interns
 - o California Reading and Literature Project, at CLU, Literacy Action

Research and Professional Development

- o Foster Grandparents, Senior Community Volunteers in our Classrooms
- o FOOD SHARE, Kids Farmers Market, monthly nutrition and cooking classes for our 4th graders, recipes and groceries go home with them
- o Ventura County Public Health, parent educationo Ventura County Behavioral Health, professional development of our staff to support community wellness, support for Olweus implementation
- o City Impact, counseling services for youth and families
- o Ventura County Office of Education, Friday Night Live Club, student leadership development
- o City of Oxnard, Alliance for Community Strength
- o Deardorff Farms, Fresh Picks Delivery Site
- o Western Growers, support our school Garden
- o Limoneira Farms, Santa Paula
- o See-Ag, Students for Eco Education and Agriculture, Ojai, sustainable farming education for students
- o Ventura County Women in Agriculture
- o Ventura County Farm Museum, Santa Paula
- o Currently Developing Partnerships for K-5 Strand:
- o Art
- o Art Trek, Artist in the Classroom, Focus on The Masters, Carnegie Art Museum
- o Science
- o CBS2 Weather-bug, weather station

Haydock Middle School Academy of Environmental Science and Visual and Performing Arts

- Full implementation of our Visual and Performing Arts and Environmental Science academy including access to band, choir, and art for the majority of 6th graders
- Upgraded science labs, piano lab, and dance studio
- Haydock's first ever Winter Showcase highlighting all of our academy areas
- Project based learning across the content areas
- Partnerships with CSUCI and the National Park Service
- At Haydock, 150 student artists will express themselves with an artistic collage incorporating recycled materials. Student designed collages will communicate a call to action related to an endangered species of their choice. Student artists will also use their technology skills to embed QR codes in their art work.

Kamala K-8

- Dual Language Immersion
- Participated in hour of code

- Increased members in PTA
- 8th graders working as Peer tutors with primary grades
- Added technology elective, photo club and art club
- Boys basketball team
- Implementing Class Flow and promoting use of iPads for instruction
- Before and After School tutoring
- Universal access across the grade level for targeted intervention for students

Lemonwood

- Dual Language Immersion program
- Teachers collaborate and work diligently to implementing the CCSS across the curriculum.
- My teachers have embarked on piloting the new Math program to better prepare our students at looking at the subject with a new perspective.
- Implemented the iPads kinder through 7th grade with an interdisciplinary focus.
- Teachers collaborate on creating technology based projects with the assistance of our own students as teachers.
- Students participate in Chess Club, Robotics, Math Club, Basketball, 5K Runs, Student Council, Peer Mentors, Peer Mediators, Science Club, Reading Club, Art Club, and Pep Squad, and student competitions in Science, Shortening Bee, African American Speech and Cesar Chavez
- Literacy or Mathematics, Science Family Nights.
- Our parent involvement in the English as a Second Language program is up to 84 participants.
- Our supporters are CSUCI (Student Teachers, Future Teachers Credentialing Program volunteers for Family Night), Oxnard Police Department, Big Smiles, Driscoll, and 7 eleven.

Marina West

- All staff, students and community members are Sharks swimming together toward success.
- They have worked hard to effectively use the iPads as a teaching and learning tool.
- They provide both teacher and students with opportunities to expand their knowledge through the use of the iPads.
- The Mouse Squad is a very effective program focused on teaching students specific trouble shooting skills for technology. This group of students uses these skills to support our programs and assist teachers and students with technology issues. They are learning skills which can pave the way for the workplace.

Marshall

- Kindergarten students recently visited a local (agriculture in Santa Paula) museum and learned about plant parts and bee communication as they

put on plant and bee costumes and acted out what they were learning.

- ☐ 1st Grade Team displayed collage and still life paintings on our office art wall – Each month grade level teams decorate.

- ☐ 2nd and 3rd

grade students recently began their music classes with OMAG teacher. 3rd grade students are enjoying an introduction to wind instruments on individual recorders.

- ☐ 4th Grade students are having fun with an art project that replicates African traditional cloth-will be displayed at our African American Speech Contest.

- ☐ Bulldog News Network is about to be launched by 5th grade students who will film, interview and distribute news digitally.

- ☐ Marshall has benefited from collaboration with Channel Islands University and the City of Oxnard to host a yearly dynamic Science Carnival. Later this month, our school hosts the Annual African American Speech Exposition as organized by the Xi Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

- ☐ More collaboration with community groups is being planned. We expect to begin Music Club in collaboration with the Music Department of Oxnard High School.

McAuliffe Elementary

- ☐ Astronomy Night

- ☐ Mission Museum Exposition

- ☐ Science Owl Pellets Dissection

- ☐ Engineering

- ☐ Battle of the Books

- ☐ Artist in the Classroom

- ☐ PTA Health and Fitness activities

- ☐ Music Enrichment

- ☐ Working with Island Packers

- ☐ IPAD parent training

Mckinna Elementary

- ☐ Teachers on many grade levels have had virtual field trips from the state Parks Department (PORTS).

- ☐ Teachers are Skyping with teachers and classes in other states and even with the Night Zookeeper at the London Zoo. This type of lesson opens up the world to our students and allows them to have experiences that would not have been possible in the past.

- ☐ We are working on some exciting Project Based Learning. Fourth graders are redesigning the school playground by building both two and three dimensional models. First graders are learning about the environment with their “Saving the World for Our Future” project.

- ☐ We are participating in a project sponsored by UCSB, Kids Engaged Learning Programming or KELP, that allows students in 4th and 5th grades to explore

coding, and students in grades TK – 3 are using Kodable School and other applications to learn the basics of coding and computational thinking.

- John LaBriola , an architect, and Jorge Gutierrez have been working with the 4th graders on their playground project. Dr. Chris McCoy from you3Dit has consulted on the purchase of 3D printers that will be purchased with a grant from the Oxnard Education Foundation and will be helping set up the printers when they arrive. Dr. Morales and Ana Del Rio Barba addressed students on the subject of culture.
- McKinna has Twitter and Instagram accounts to keep parent and community members in the loop with the great things going on at McKinna.
- McKinna teachers are presenting at local and state conferences like CUBE, CUE, CAG, and VCOE Technology Integration Day.

Ramona

- Ramona Elementary students are enhancing their academic wonder through exploration and investigation with its new environmental science strand.
- Students are using iPads to grow their literacy and math knowledge.
- Parents are offered workshops in supporting their child(ren) with literacy, math and iPad use.
- Ramona Elementary Teachers are committed and passionate to the being and nurturing life-long learners.
- Students access books at their Lexile level and personal interest using myOn reading books. Students are taking tests or writing reviews all while increasing their fluency. One student has read over 100 books!"

Ritchen

- We are developing our Science and Technology Strands
- We are on social media, follow us on Twitter or Instagram
- With IPads being new to our staff and students this year we are offering lots of technology support.
- We have teachers training teachers!
- We are strengthening our partnership with CSUCI

Rose

- Rose-The School of Science and Wellness
- *Science Focus at every grade level
- *Field Trips supporting Science Focus at every grade level
- *School wide Science Fair
- * Developing Science club
- *Student Council
- *Pilot Food Recycle Program
- *Olweus Bully Prevention Program (beginning stages Champs)
- *Art Trek
- *Heart Association-Jump Rope for Heart
- *Color Run a Thon for students

- *Parent Project (parent classes)

San Miguel

- Had an adorable Winter Showcase featuring the preschool children.
- Teachers are collaborating to prepare the students for kindergarten.

Sierra Linda

- Promoting Reading 14,653 books read
- 31,160,018 words read
- Strand Development
- Teacher Leaders promoting technology in the classroom
- Literacy night
- Students creating their own books at Spring Author's Fair
- Holiday Performances reinforcing the arts
- Spring Art Fair

Soria K-8

- Dual Language Immersion leader with their program at the 5th grade level and will be developing the first middle school dual language immersion program... thank you Soria
- Extra-curricular activities such as Sports, Art and Music to our students.
- Successful winter program
- Aztec festival continues to be wonderful traditions that would not have been possible without the support of our parents and community.
- Our PTA, SSC and ELAC committees work arduously to help us make Soria a place where students can thrive academically as well as socially.
- Student Centered learning focus
- integrating technology
- Partnership with Mexican Consulate and exploring partnership with Cal State University Channel Islands
- Award winning Cheerleaders