Virtual message to 710 Diamond Bar High graduates during receiving an on-air request by Principal Dr. Ryan Maine. A keynote to the 589 graduating Walnut High seniors after tassels, and special celebrity messages. Virtual ceremonies that included synchronized musical commencement due to the global pandemic. 2020 after the cancellation of traditional year-end activities.

Maple Hill, Walnut High Named Related Programme/Project Lead the Way Biomedical Engineering and biomedical science. Distinguished School Award for providing broad access to the special recognition for increasing student access, engagement, and achievement. Maple Hill Elementary has also been recognized as a Distin- guished School for having high participation in its hands-on learning opportunities in PLTW Launch modules. "PLTW Launch provides us the platform to empower the minds of our students so that they can be agents for change," said Principal Kelly Morris. "The Maple Hill team takes great strides in providing our students with a rich STEAM program that promotes critical thinking, hands-on learning, experimentation, collaboration, and creativity."

From virtual graduations featuring Ryan Seacrest and Morris Chestnut, to drive through ceremonies, WVUSD proudly celebrates the Class of 2020! From virtual graduations featuring Ryan Seacrest and Morris Chestnut, to drive through ceremonies, WVUSD proudly celebrates the Class of 2020!
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Jonathan Ho
Carroll-Millman University, 3.98 GPA
Taken 14 AP Courses, National Merit Finalist, National AP Scholar, President’s Volunteer Service Gold Award, California Alliance for Public Education state president, DBHS Symphony Orchestra president, All-Southern Honor Orchestra principal viola.

“The connections I’ve made, the faculty I’ve worked with, and the amazing explorations we’ve taken in chamber ensembles and orchestra have all taught me how to raise my standards and thrive together.”

Tom Murickan
University of Arizona, 4.0 GPA
Taken 12 AP courses, National Merit Scholar, TEDx/Doors Beacon Street co-host, President’s Volunteer Service Gold Award, Al-Med Club Founder and president, Swim Team, Wind Ensemble, Relay for Life captain.

“I skipped a page on my AP Chemistry Free Response Questions junior year. I still managed to score a 5 on the test, which served as a testament to how one can succeed even when grave errors are committed.”

Adrienne Yuh
University of California, Los Angeles, 4.0 GPA
Taken 11 AP Courses, CHOC intern, Symphony Orchestra section leader, UNICEF Club president, Girls League president, USA Biology Olympiad vice president, Variety Badminton.

“My favorite DBHS memories are the Symphony rehearsals and trips. Even after hours of trying run-throughs and lots of sections, it was always so rewarding to see our efforts come together and create beautiful pieces of music.”

Philip Hayn
University of Southern California, 3.96 GPA
Taken 7 AP Courses, IB Diploma Candidate. USC Town & Gown Scholarship, Shaolin Kung Fu & Taekwondo Black Belt, FBLA Inland Section 1st Place, Martial Arts Club, National Business Honor Society, Parkur Club president, Debate Club vice president.

“My favorite WHS memory was the day I led the Martial Arts Club performance. It was a great experience being able to bring out each member’s strengths, work on weaknesses, while being able to share our passion with the school. We also provided free lessons to promote physical and mental wellbeing.”

Melody Yu
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 4.0 GPA
Taken 12 AP Courses, IB Diploma Candidate. USA Biology Olympiad 36th Place in Nation, City of Hope research and surgery intern, National Taiwan University research intern, Carnegie Hall guest performer, International Concerto Competition 2nd Place, City of Hope research and surgery intern, California Alliance for Public Education state president, Variety Badminton.

“I loved being able to bring my peers together whether it be in the ASB classroom, during a Mustang spell-out at a big game, or at a pep rally in my class section. Walnut High School will always be my home, and I’ll forever bleed blue and gold.”

Award Spotlight
DBHS Senior Surprised with $40,000 STEM Scholarship

Diamond Bar High School senior Sean Chang is one step closer to realizing his dream of becoming an engineer. In April, he was named a 2020 Edison Scholar, a prestigious award that comes with a $40,000 college scholarship from Edison International.

A surprise announcement had been planned during Sean’s fourth period orchestra class with school officials, parents, and a representative from Southern California Edison.

There would have been lots of cheers and maybe a few tears when the big check was revealed. But, it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting school closures. Sean instead received an email video announcement with the news – and he’s OK with that.

“This scholarship means a lot to me. It lifts a huge burden off my parents’ shoulders and will grant me additional education opportunities in the future,” he said.

Sean is among an elite group of 30 dynamic and innovative high school seniors in Southern California Edison’s service territory to receive a total of $2.1 million through the Edison Scholars Program this year.

“I hope to create hundreds of cost-efficient ROVs remotely operated underwater vehicles) that are connected through a large network, that can automate and expedite the clean-up of our oceans,” he said.

Mona Hassan
Stanford University, 4.0 GPA
Taken 10 AP Courses, NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award, National Merit Finalist, Society of Women Engineers president, DBHS TEDx web developer, Team Snoopcat programmer, Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council.

“DBHS connected a strong work ethic, a trait that has been the key to my success. Teachers encouraged us to solve problems creatively, voice our concerns, and collaborate with each other.”

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Spyder3D, to design and manufacture reusable 3D printed protective equipment for frontline medical staff and how anyone can help. The initiative, which has supported nearly 100 medical centers, provided approximately 600 free face shields to this project. Rebellion provided approximately 600 free face shields to this initiative, which has supported nearly 100 medical centers. Six members of the Printed Works Club created a facemask that can also be easily scaled to fit different face sizes. Since the school was shuttered, Instructional Dean Gabriel Aguilar brought a b a y o f 3 D p r i n t e r s h o me t o a id t he sp ecial r elief r ef u s . "Sev e ral co mmunity p artners c on t a c t e d u s t o s e e h o w w e c o u ld l e v e r a g e o u r 3 D p r in tin g a nd m anufact u re c apabil it ies t o s uppo rt t he n e ed f or f ac e s h e ld s , " h e s a id . "R a th e r t han c o l lect in g d ust , t h e s e m a c h in es a r e no w p ro d u c in g 3 0 f ac em a sk s f r e a m d d a y , u sin g m a t er ial s d o n e b y S py d e r 3 D . " 3D Printers Save Lives

Diamond Bar, Walnut High Robotics Teams Help Fight Pandemic

Tech savvy teens from Diamond Bar and Walnut High Schools quietly answered a call to aid first responders during the global pandemic. When students learned of the dire shortage of personal protective equipment for frontline medical staff and how anyone with a 3D printer could fill the void — they sprang into action. Diamond Bar High’s DB Engineering and Team Splicer, robotics partners with parent Joe Bloomburg, owner of Spyder3D, to design and manufacture reusable 3D printed facemasks and face shields. Six members of the Printed Works Club created a facemask that could be easily printed by those new to 3D printing, require little post-production work, be reusable, and accept multiple types of filters.

Challengers for Change: Suzanne Scores 2020 Civic Learning Award

Suzanne Middle School has been rewarded for engaging students in civic-minded activities with a 2020 Civic Learning Award of Merit. California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond co-sponsor the program for K-12 public schools. Suzanne is among 75 honorees celebrated for strong civics curriculum in schools and service-learning projects in their communities.

Connecting WWUSD Families to Mental Healthcare and Counseling Resources

Walnut Valley USD has partnered with Care Solace to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students, families, and staff. Care Solace is an online resource with a live 24/7 concierge meant to assist individuals in finding local mental health related programs and counseling services. The web-based system works alongside a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) as a tool for school staff and families to connect with community-based mental healthcare resources and providers. The proprietary care navigation system taps into a vast database of mental healthcare resources to find carefully vetted local therapists and programs in minutes. School district staff and families may access Care Solace services in two ways:
1 Call (888) 515-0599 to speak with someone from your Concierge team.
2 Visit your custom district link at www.carersolace.com/wwusdfamilies

Distance Learning

Virtual classes commenced as educators adapt to teaching during the coronavirus pandemic. Thoughts and experiences from around our schools navigating in a virtual world...

Monday, April 20 was the first day of Phase 2 remote learning classes for families and educators adjusting to life during the coronavirus pandemic. "I found myself really paying attention to my tone in the lessons and joking with the kids as if they were sitting in the classroom with me," said Suzanne math and drama teacher Héctor Papadopoulos of the new online learning experience. Teachers can pre-record lectures, use live video chats, and hold virtual office hours for real-time interaction with students. "They miss that closeness and support we all feel when we're around people, and that's why it's so important for us as educators to connect with them as much as possible," said Papadopoulos.

The Social-Emotional Learning work we're doing is not only important, but crucial for our kids." Students received detailed schedule information from school leaders, teachers re-configured their entire instruction system, and over 3,000 Chromebooks were distributed in preparation for launch day.

"It's not the same as face-to-face, but it feels good to see our students again," said Walnut High choir teacher Lisa Lopez who demonstrated pitfalls of singing live over the internet.

She directed students to sing the national anthem or happy birthday song a cappella and to watch their conductor's hands "carefully." The singing evolved into giggles because there is a lag with everyone having a different network speed!" Ami Garvin quickly learned how eager her Suzanne orchestra students were to return to class.

"They were posting on Google Classroom demanding the join code during the passing period. And at one point, a student yelled in all caps: WHERE ARE YOU MANAGING THIS?" When Zoom meetings were running long, Ami Garvin quickly learned how eager her Suzanne orchestra students were to return to class.

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Outlook
Issue 46 Summer 2020
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We Will Get Through This!
Singing DBHS Counselor Brings Cheer in Weekly Videos

Jennifer Veneracion, a Title 1 Specialist has joined legions of homebound bread bakers during the coronavirus pandemic by deciding to learn a new skill at the onset of stay-at-home orders that began in mid-March.

"Bread making seemed fun to do as well as something the entire family could enjoy, and it could carry on after the quarantine," Veneracion explained.

After combining the fermented starter and flour, she methodically kneaded the mixture into a silky dough. And when the oven timer sounded, out came the steaming, crusty loaves of success.

Veneracion has cooked up traditional Filipino Pan De Sal bread, leafies, sandwich breads, tortillas, cinnamon rolls, and more. She has also discovered the restorative magic of the experience.

"Now that I’ve learned a lot, bread baking has become a form of therapy for me," she said.

Teaching remotely and getting my three kids on track is rough, so unplugging and working on a recipe is both relaxing and rewarding.

In the end, Veneracion’s family decides if each bake is a winner.

"My kids are pretty honest and will tell me if the bread is a hit – with reactions ranging from ‘Mom, this is amazing’ to ‘Well, it’s bread, I guess,’" she said.

"Either way, I’m hoping they see the importance of learning a new skill, celebrating the successes, and powering through the failures."

Comfort Food
C.J. Morris Elementary Teacher Learns Bread Baking

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Flat Miss Gomez
Vejar Elementary Teacher Goes On Adventures with Students

Vejar Elementary first grade teacher Lisa Gomez had been struggling with being away from the youngsters, but what “broke” her was learning that they were pretending to be strong too.

“It’s so hard when 6- and 7-year-olds look you straight in the eye and tell you they miss you so much,” she shared.

So, the teacher devised an out-of-the-box solution to stay connected with students who didn’t violate the social distancing protocol – Flat Miss Gomez.

Gomez downloaded her personal Bitmoji digital character, printed up copies of the four-inch paper doll, and mailed one to every younger.

“Miss Mini Gomez, as they like to call her, can listen, be there with them, and play all day,” she shared.

With that, the students began sharing photos swimming, biking, dancing, playing games, and staging a fashion show with their stand-in teacher.

“I eat with them, they read to me, and at night they find ways to track me in, and take care of me.”

“And they even keep me safe with a mask and by washing my hands,” she added.

“My teacher heart is full, it still hurts, but these photos bring a smile to my face just like these kids did every day in my classroom!”

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Weaving for hunger relief
Quail Summit 3rd Grader Feeding America One Bracelet at a Time

During quarantine, 8-year-old Anjelica Liu learned a new hobby that will help provide over 5,600 meals to families affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Quail Summit Elementary third grader has been weaving tiny rubber bands into bracelets and 3D charms using a Rainbow Loom. And the items have been selling like hotcakes on social media to families and friends.

Anjelica is donating 100% of fundraiser proceeds to the Feeding America network of food banks.

“I feel very happy that I am able to help people who are dealing with difficult situations during COVID-19,” she said.

To date, the sale of over 70 colorful items has raised nearly $200, and will be combined with matching funds from her parents, and her mother’s employer.

The nationwide Feeding America hunger relief organization provides ten meals to families in need for every dollar donated.

“Anjelica is an example that no matter the age, you can make a difference!” said Principal Frances Weissennger.

Knit Yourself Calm
Chaparral 8th Grader Knits Students Together During Closure

When Chaparral Middle School eighth-grader Aslin Choi learned of the “Be A Helper” digital challenge, she grabbed her knitting needles. The age-old pastime has caught the attention of even the Gen Z crowd with its winning combination of creating beautiful projects with yarn while reducing stress at the same time.

In the early days of quarantine, Choi turned to the steadfast, repetitive diversion that requires undivided attention when things got a bit scary.

"Knitting has been a very calming experience for me, so I wanted to show other students a way to relax that might help them," she said.

With supplies in hand, the 14-year-old offered up a step-by-step lesson using the double loop cast-on method.

"I’m going to teach you all how to knit since I’m sure you guys are getting stir crazy being trapped up in your houses,” she shared in the video.

“This is a nice way to stay chill, be relaxed, and keep out of your parents’ hair.”

“Aslin continues to shine and share her efforts to make our Chaparral community a better place!” said Principal Ron Tuboodeus.

To learn more about Walnut Valley Schools visit our website at
www.wvusd.k12.ca.us