



# SANTIAGO

*K8 Elementary School*

2212 N. Baker St., Santa Ana, CA 92706  
(714) 564-8400

August 2, 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians,

It is with great pride and excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as the newly appointed Principal of Santiago Elementary School. I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to lead a school community that has a rich history of academics, student enrichment, parent involvement, and tradition! I have been dedicated to Santa Ana Unified for more than eighteen years as a teacher and school site administrator for all K-12 grade levels. Within the last four years, I had the opportunity to work alongside district and community leaders, while supporting site personnel as an Administrative Coordinator for SAUSD's Extended Learning Programs, Visual & Performing Arts, Athletics, and Health & Wellness Departments.

Our school has a rich history in Santa Ana. Since 1954, Santiago has evolved from preparing K-5 students for intermediate school, to equipping Pre-K to 8th grade students for their transition to high school! I can honestly say that we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to positively impact our students for 10 years of their lives. That's one decade! Along with our teachers, support staff, and parent leaders, I will dedicate my time to continue our collaborative legacy of success by sustaining and building upon our rich Culture and Climate, while adding a human element to everything we do.

We will focus on school wide social emotional initiatives, best practices in teaching and learning, the use of data to drive instruction, and provide consistent implementation of the curriculum in a rigorous manner. By doing so, we can continue to increase student academic achievement and experiences that are rigorous, relevant, and help students build relationships while making real-world connections.

We are steadily reaching the end of our summer break and a lot is happening to get our school ready for the new year. I wanted to take a few moments to bring some of those things to your attention.

## **FACILITIES**

Our custodians, staff and district support have been working hard to get our grounds and classrooms ready for the new school year. In addition to preparing classrooms and facilities, we are currently relocating our library to rooms 57 and 58. This project is still underway and our goal is to have it completed before the year begins. The library relocation has more square footage and will allow us to maximize the use of the media center without impeding library access for teachers and students.

This year, we are introducing our Parent Wellness Center located in the existing kitchen lounge in the Media Center. The Wellness Center is intended as a multi-purpose venue for parents to collaborate, receive individualized support, and learn about parent workshop opportunities offered at Santiago or greater community.

## **MASTER CALENDAR**

This July, we have invited members of our school community to assist with the construction of our master calendar. Our intent is to schedule our traditional and major events prior to the first day of school so that we have a clear outlook for the year. This would include, but not limited to PTA, ASB/club, school wide events, assessment days, and fundraising windows. A final copy of our master calendar will be provided to all parents once completed.

## **MUSIC PROGRAM**

This year, we are building a music program that will allow students to build their capacity in the arts. We are in the process of hiring a new music teacher that will be assigned to Santiago on a daily basis. Our new music teacher will work directly with both elementary and secondary students, concentrating on band and orchestra. Music instruction will be taking place in room 101 and more information as to enrolling students will be provided at the beginning of the year.

## **FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL – MORNING DROP OFF**

The first week of school is fast approaching and as we know, it's a very exciting time for all of us to reunite at Santiago. In order to maintain our level of excitement, we are allowing parents the option to walk their children to their designated line-up areas at the beginning of the day between August 13-17. However, we also know that the first days of school are very crucial for building routines and goals in the classroom, so we ask that parents allow teachers to begin the instructional day without interruptions. If you wish to discuss personal matters or would like to have personal time with your child's teacher, we ask that you email them directly for an appointment or leave a message in the main office. If you do not get a response within 24 hours, please contact the main office for further assistance. As a reminder, Tuesday mornings are designated days for street sweeping. Please ensure that you don't leave your vehicles in the staff lot to ensure that teachers have a place to park.

## **NEW STAFF**

This year, we are pleased to welcome new and returning members to our Santiago community. We would like to give a warm welcome to:

Josh Havlik, Grade 2  
Jessica Rodriguez, Grade 4  
Andres Arroyo, Grade 5  
Aaron Gonzales, Grade 5  
Abdul Shapar, Grade 6 Math & Science  
Alejandra Rocha, Grade 6 Math & Science  
Cecilia Sanchez, School Psychologist  
Elisa Pool, School Psychologist  
Julie Lucero, Engage 360 Site Coordinator

As your school community leader, it is important to me that everyone involved feel connected, welcomed, and excited to be here! This attitude enables us to meet the challenges of academic excellence in a positive, fun, and caring environment. My door is always open and I welcome your input. Please feel free to call or email me to discuss any concerns you might have throughout the school year. I look forward to working with you as a team to help each student at Santiago Elementary meet their goals, build relationships, feel connected, and have a successful school year!

Let's all have a memorable year!

~Jimmy Bruhl