



For Immediate Release

1401 W. Valencia Drive
Fullerton, CA 92833
714-447-7480

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FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Six FSD Schools Receive California Distinguished Schools Recognition

(Fullerton, CA) – State Superintendent of Public Education, Tony Thurmond, recently announced the 2023 California Distinguished Schools. Fullerton School District (FSD) is proud to announce that six of 17 elementary schools in FSD have received this prestigious recognition this year. Acacia, Hermosa Drive, Fisler, Beechwood, Laguna Road, and Sunset Lane Schools each received the 2023 California Distinguished School recognition.

The California Distinguished Schools program recognizes schools for their hard work, dedication, and resilience shown by educators and schools following the struggles faced by communities stemming from physical and mental health challenges as a result of the pandemic. Data used to select 2023 California Distinguished Schools includes assessment results, chronic absenteeism, suspension rates, and socioeconomic data.

Statewide, only 6% of all elementary schools received recognition as a 2023 California Distinguished School while 35% of FSD elementary schools (six school sites) are being recognized, the most schools recognized in any Orange County School District. Dr. Caroline Llewellyn, Principal of Hermosa Drive School, shared, “The 2023 California Distinguished School award is a reflection of Hermosa Drive’s commitment to excellence, positivity, and collaboration. Our students, teachers, staff, and parents have worked diligently to achieve exceptional student achievement outcomes and an overwhelmingly positive school climate. Hermosa Drive is an inclusive, family-friendly community school where high academic standards and kindness are at the core. Our school is built upon strong relationships and a unified commitment to educating the whole child by offering a balanced yet rigorous learning environment.”

“It is my pleasure to honor and recognize these 356 elementary schools for providing outstanding public education and opportunities to students. Their innovation and hard work have helped to ensure their students can heal, recover, and thrive—even in the toughest times,” Thurmond said in a press release. “California Distinguished Schools represent examples of not just excellent teaching, learning, and collaboration, but also highly successful, data-driven school efforts ranging from professional

development for educators to mental health and social-emotional wellness strategies to address the needs of students and families.”

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California and serves over 11,600 students in grades TK – 8th. The Fullerton School District includes 21 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8th grade schools, three middle schools, and a distance learning and home school model. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit www.fullertonsd.org.

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For more information, please feel free to contact Dr. Robert Pletka/Superintendent at 714/447-7405