



HIGH LEVELS OF LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS



Torrance Unified School District

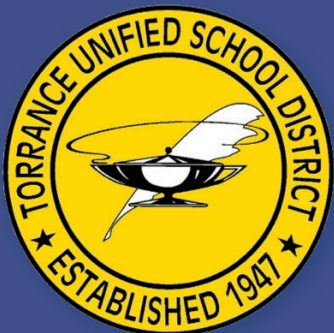
2335 Plaza Del Amo

Torrance, CA 90501

www.tusd.org



HIGH LEVELS OF LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS



FALL 2020

STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS

Annual Report to the Community



Torrance Unified School District

Fall 2020

Dear Torrance Unified Families and Neighbors:

Welcome to our first Torrance Unified School District *State of Our Schools Annual Report*, highlighting successes in YOUR local public schools. I hope that you enjoy a glimpse into the lives of our students and staff and some of the wonderful accomplishments we want to celebrate with our community.

For over 70 years, the cornerstone and pride of our community has been the award-winning schools of TUSD. Families choose to move to Torrance (and stay here!) in great part because of the outstanding reputation and exceptional education provided in our neighborhood schools. Whether attending college or pursuing career pathways immediately after graduation, students depend on TUSD schools to get college and career ready.

Our highly qualified teachers, staff, and administrators are the heart of our organization. We focus on providing a well-rounded school experience for all students, including a rich and rigorous curriculum and a safe, inclusive setting that fully supports students' physical development and social-emotional well-being. Working together with you, our community, we can ensure that every TUSD student graduates with purpose and promise, ready for success in higher education, jobs, career, and life.

Thank you! On behalf of our Board of Education, we appreciate your continued interest in and support of TUSD, whether you are a parent, resident, or member of our greater community.

Tim Stowe, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent, Torrance Unified School District

www.tusd.org

Provided as a public service for your information only, from Torrance Unified School District.

"Teaching in Torrance has impacted my life deeply. STUDENTS matter most here. I am so proud to work where the greatest value is placed on our most important asset, our students."

— Vicki Hildreth, *Teacher, South High School*

"School is fun! My teacher helps me to learn new things—math problems, writing long essays, and making an experiment more than one time if it does not come out right the first time. I love school because I get to play sports, make art, play music on my flute, and I also get to be a "buddy" and help other kids on their learning process."

— Sofia Reyes, *Arnold Elementary School, 5th grader*

"For nearly 48 years—first as a student, in my proudest years as a parent, and through 27 years as a TUSD employee, I've loved every moment. It's an honor to be part of the Tartar family."

— Theresa Hollis, *TUSD Graduate, Parent and Employee*

"We have noticed and deeply appreciated the commitment of TUSD teachers and staff to creating a caring community on each campus. That culture has helped our children try new things and to seek out help when needed. We know that our kids are getting a high quality education here and developing life skills that go well beyond the classroom."

— Dena Abramson Babb, *Parent*
Magruder Middle School and North High School

"My experience at Torrance High is something I will always cherish. Caring faculty, a strong sense of community, and wonderful THS people have set me up for success in the next chapter."

— Jaylem Brar, *Torrance High School, Class of 2020 Valedictorian*

"My daughter lucked out with an absolutely amazing 5th grade teacher, Mr. Jennewein. She is busy with schoolwork and knows her teacher has a vested interest in her education to prepare her for middle school. She'll say to me, 'He's always so positive and looks for the little, good things in life.' That's something we all should be doing."

— Kimberly Palfi, *Parent, Victor Elementary School*

"This is the beginning of my 20th year as a TUSD teacher. Since day one, my Edison family and Torrance colleagues have been a source of inspiration and motivation. Today, more than ever, during these unique and challenging times, I'm proud and honored to be surrounded by the most dedicated and passionate teachers, administrators and support staff who work tirelessly towards one common goal—the growth and success of each and every TUSD student."

— Danielle Fawcett, *Learning Center Teacher,*
Edison Elementary School





STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS

Annual Report to the Community

By the Numbers — *Some interesting statistics about our school district:*

23,042

Total Number of Students

34

Number of Schools

432½

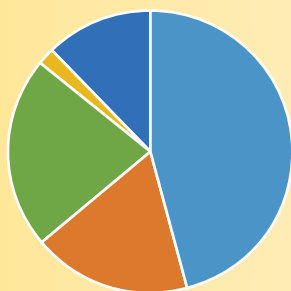
Total Acreage of Campuses

1,332

Total Number of Classrooms

73

Years in Operation (Incorporated 1947)



2020/21 Projected Expenditures

Certificated Salaries	\$119,112,000	46%
Classified Salaries	\$45,436,000	18%
Employee Benefits	\$56,856,000	22%
Supplies/Material	\$5,465,000	2%
Other Operating	\$32,251,000	12%

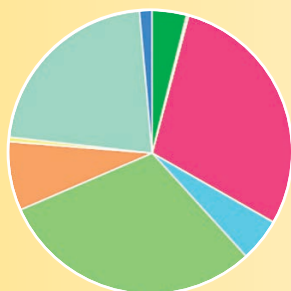
TOTAL.....\$259,120,000 ... 100%

95%

High School Graduation Rate

80

Languages Spoken by TUSD Families



Student Ethnicity

Hispanic	31.0%
Asian	29.2%
White	21.2%
Two or More	8.2%
Filipino	5.0%
African American	4.0%
Pacific Islander	0.4%
American Indian	0.1%
Other	0.9%

1255 full-time
49 part-time

Number of Certificated/Teaching Staff

598 full-time
746 part-time

Number of Classified/Support Staff

2,588,730

Total Building Square Footage

Safety First!

School safety is a top priority for TUSD.

We have taken a number of strategic steps to proactively keep students and staff safe.

Facilities: With voter-approved bond measure funds, we have replaced fencing around all schools, established a single point of entry system, mounted 1400

surveillance cameras, and invested in Raptor, a visitor management system that screens everyone entering a school campus against the Megan's Law database.

Relationships with First Responders:

We partner with the Torrance Police and Fire Departments to keep emergency preparedness protocols up-to-date and to implement industry best practices. Our four school resource officers (SROs) are sworn TPD officers assigned to support all schools.

School Sites: Our Comprehensive School Site Safety Plans outline safety procedures with an emphasis on creating a safe school culture and climate. To support sites when there is a possible emergency, our site administration and counselors are trained on Threat Assessment Protocols, including active shooter response. In addition, emergency kits are installed in every classroom.

A Focus on Health and Safety:

As the pandemic continues to affect our community, the District is focused on supporting students and staff while being diligent to ensure our schools are clean and safe. Cleaning and disinfecting routines have been enhanced per all state and local health department orders, with frequent cleaning of high touch point areas and daily disinfecting.

One of the District's top priorities is giving deliberate attention to the social-emotional well-being of students and staff. By utilizing screening questionnaires, the District is able to identify individuals in need of support and we continue to promote strategies on how to stay connected from a distance.

Our Community Partners

- ▶ Torrance Council of PTAs
- ▶ Torrance Education Foundation
- ▶ Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ City of Torrance
- ▶ Local First Responders – Torrance Police & Fire



State-of-the-Art School Facilities

We're Proud of Our Past...

In 2008, local voters approved school bond Measures Y and Z totaling \$355 million in school upgrades. In 2014, Torrance voters approved two more school bonds, T and U authorizing an additional \$194 million in school upgrades. This stable local funding has helped us transform TUSD schools.

Completed upgrades include:

- ▶ Modernization of ALL classrooms;
- ▶ Construction of new elementary science labs;
- ▶ New high school performing arts centers;
- ▶ New athletic and other extracurricular facilities;
- ▶ Technology refresh every 5 years, including student and teacher devices;
- ▶ School safety and security upgrades—including perimeter fencing, one-button entry systems at school site front gates, and an extensive camera surveillance program at all of our school sites;
- ▶ Playground and physical education facilities upgrades at all school sites;
- ▶ Construction of TUSD's state-of-the-art George Mannon Aquatic Center, with competition size swimming pool, which has been used by US and international Olympic Water Polo teams.

Entrusted with over half a billion dollars in taxpayer funding, TUSD has proudly completed every bond project approved by Torrance voters, on time and within budget. Many facility improvement projects were completed for less than the original cost estimates, providing a welcome surplus to invest in remaining approved facility projects yet to be completed.

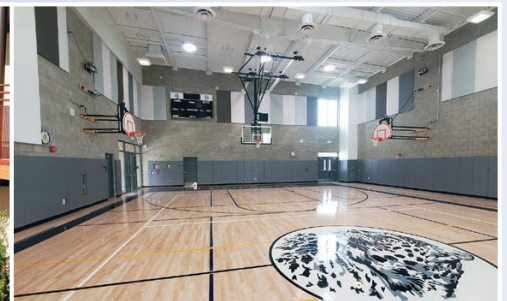
And Investing In Our Future...

TUSD facilities projects that are still under construction or planned, include:

- ▶ Middle School gymnasiums completed across the District;
- ▶ Finalizing playground upgrades at various elementary sites;
- ▶ Roofing upgrades on portable buildings throughout TUSD to extend their useful lives;

- ▶ A new parking lot with lighting for Zamperini Stadium;
- ▶ New public address/emergency communications systems for school sites and TUSD District Office;
- ▶ A new girls' softball field at Torrance High School;
- ▶ Ongoing technology equipment upgrades from future Measure T funds.

Every student deserves to learn in safe, modern, school facilities and YOU are helping TUSD make it true in our community!



Thank You, Torrance Community!





Teaching & Learning Excellence



Brighter Futures through Honors and Advanced Placement Courses

For nearly 20 years, our students have been granted open access to Honors and AP Courses based on one criteria—a desire to challenge themselves and succeed in advanced level courses. Popularity in these advanced classes continues to grow! Students take over 4,100 exams a year and 76% score 3 points (out of 5) or higher. The increases in participation and student performance have attracted significant recognition for our high schools, including multiple California Distinguished School and California Gold Ribbon School awards.

STEM Success — Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

STEM programs are thriving at TUSD! Our students consistently rank among the top teams in the county, state, and nation in Academic Decathlon, Speech and Debate, Science Olympiad, and Mathematics competitions. The Robotics, CyberPatriots and StellarXplorers teams have also achieved national recognition in engineering, computer networking, and satellite launch competitions. TUSD girls in particular, continue to rise in science and engineering. We sponsored the first all-girls CyberPatriots team in California to earn a perfect score in the State Finals and advance to the National Championships. This past spring, even at the height of COVID-19, 400 elementary and middle

school girls participated in a virtual science and engineering program hosted by TUSD GATE staff.

Prepared for College and Career

TUSD is committed to ensuring our graduates are college and career ready. Our Dual Enrollment and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs provide students with specialized, hands-on, and real-world training that directly aligns with high-skill, high-wage, in-demand careers after high school. Through our Dual Enrollment program, students simultaneously earn college credit while satisfying high school graduation requirements. In the past three years, we have more than doubled the courses offered to our students.

Over 3,300 middle and high school students participate in our CTE program, which provides rigorous academic and technical knowledge in nine industry sectors. Students enroll in courses such as Biomedical Science, Computer Science, and Engineering.





Avenues to Achievement



This year alone, the District received \$780,000 in grant funds to expand course offerings, job, internship, and professional development opportunities. New resources and equipment are helping TUSD students do more as they prepare for college and future careers in the 21st-century global workforce.

CTE Pathways

TUSD offers these Career Technical Education opportunities:

- ▶ Professional Theater, Music, & Film & Production
- ▶ Cabinetry, Millwork, & Woodworking
- ▶ Financial Services
- ▶ Family & Human Services
- ▶ Architectural & Engineering Design
- ▶ Fashion Design & Merchandising
- ▶ Patient Care
- ▶ Food Science, Dietetics, & Nutrition
- ▶ Systems, Web, & Social Media Programming & Design

Excellence in Performing Arts

Thanks to our generous Torrance community, brand new state-of-the-art Performing Arts Centers (PACs) were built at North, South, and West High with Torrance High's existing theater renovated & modernized. Each new PAC spans 14,000 square feet with 500+ seating, and is fully digital (audio/visual). Additionally, the PACs include a scene shop, dressing rooms, as well as support spaces, including a sound room, lobby, and ticket office. These facilities give students the opportunity to work in a professional arts setting, creating professional productions in dance, choir, theatre, instrumental music, and other fine arts. Instruction is provided by highly qualified faculty and professional specialists with extensive industry experience. The end result: vibrant arts programs!

Going The Distance!

We are committed to providing our students with a well-rounded education rigorous in academics and a wide array of competitive athletic opportunities. Our schools are offering dozens of team varsity, junior varsity, and freshman sports, providing opportunities for students to excel in physical competition while also learning and developing valuable life skills such as teamwork, leadership, pride, and compassion. Students who are involved in school-based activities or are a part of a team, experience more success in and out of the classroom. Our students have achieved distinctive honors including CIF championships in basketball, football, softball, and soccer, and have also competed at the state level. We are proud of the success of our athletics programs and the positive and lasting impact they have on our students.

