

# Westside Wire



## Hillview Honored as Gold Ribbon School

The California Department of Education named Hillview Middle School a recipient of a 2017 California Gold Ribbon Schools Award, the state's top honor. Hillview is one of 74 middle and high schools recognized in Los Angeles County and one of 275 middle schools and high schools recognized statewide. Hillview was the only school in the entire Antelope Valley to receive this award. The award recognizes schools that have made gains in implementing state-adopted academic content and

performance standards, including those for English Language Arts and Mathematics and Next Generation Science Standards. According to Hillview's application by the 2015-16 school year 96.9% of students in the honors academy maintained at least a 3.0 grade-point average or higher. In addition, 90% of sixth-grade students continue in more academically rigorous classes throughout their school career. Congratulations Hillview Family!



June  
2017

Serving over 9,000 students spread across 346 square miles, Westside Union School District prides itself on being "the district of choice" with more choice-based programs than any other district in the Antelope Valley. Westside Union School District features 12 schools, providing world-class education to students from kindergarten to 8th grade. Continuing a tradition of high academic achievement, a majority of Westside Union School District schools exceed the coveted 800 score on the Academic Performance Index administered by the California Department of Education.

## Cottonwood Becomes School of Choice & Gets New Name!

The Board of Trustees declared Cottonwood as the new school of choice along with a new name to match: **The IDEA (Innovation, Design, Engineering, & Art) Academy**. Cottonwood will be opening as a new school of choice in August 2017, where we can provide more opportunities to our Westside families.

Cottonwood also puts a special emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) and is undergoing a modernization to bring in new permanent facilities and programs that are focused on engineering and art for K-6 grades. There will be one facility that will be its core building, which will feature reconfigurable classrooms that will be used for art and science classes.



The STEAM programs will provide an educational choice for learning the California standards in mathematics, English language arts and literacy in history/social studies, and science through the nationally recognized engineering curriculum, Project Lead the Way.

The IDEA Academy will also provide students the opportunity to participate in robotics, coding, makerspace, education, music, and arts. They will also continue to use AVID'S college-career prep strategies to help kids achieve their success.



## Westside Union School District

41914 N. 50th Street West  
Quartz Hill, CA 93536

(661) 722-0716

[www.westside.k12.ca.us](http://www.westside.k12.ca.us)

## Board of Trustees

Linda Jones

Steve DeMarzio

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## Get Social!

Get social with Westside!  
Find, friend, follow and like us to stay up to date on the great things going on!

@WestsideSchools

[www.pinterest.com/westsideschools](http://www.pinterest.com/westsideschools)

[www.facebook.com/westsideschools](http://www.facebook.com/westsideschools)

[www.youtube.com/MyWestsideSchools](http://www.youtube.com/MyWestsideSchools)



## Esperanza Gets Playground Upgrade



On a sunny Thursday in May, over 40 employees from the global tech company Dimension Data descended on Esperanza Elementary School and spent the day upgrading the blacktop areas and memory garden. Esperanza principal Nicole Hernandez submitted an application to Dimension Data's annual "Hands, Hearts, and Hands" event, and won out over dozens of other schools from all over Southern California.



The employees re-painted the map of the United States, the four-square boxes, and created all new "number bonds" and "hundreds chart". The employees also ungraded Esperanza's Memory Garden, which will be replanted once school starts in the fall.



Thank you Dimension Data!

## Westside Celebrates 70 Years!

Nearly 200 people came out to the Rancho Vista Golf Course on May 4th to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Westside Union School District—and raise money for the West Antelope Valley Education Foundation. In addition to celebrating the history of our amazing school district, 10 "Westside Heroes" were honored by friends, family, faculty and many other Westside supporters.

### Westside Heroes

#### Arts & Entertainment

Melbourne Family – Mark, Dev & Allana  
employee, community member, alumni

#### Business & Entrepreneurship

Maureen News - alumni  
Stan Ulvin - alumni

#### Public Service

Gerald Cosey - alumni  
Gwendolyn Farrell - community member

#### Aerospace & Technology

Bret Banks - alumni

#### Education

Gina Rossall - employee  
Vickie Wyatt - employee

## A Message From The Superintendent

Our 16-17 year is drawing to a close, and we want to thank you so much for the opportunity to work with you in the education of your children. As they progress each day, it may be difficult to see the change, but comparing where they were on their arrival in August to their completion of their school year in June, the change has been enormous. We so appreciate your work at home and the work of our staff to make this change possible. Together we can accomplish much as you can see.

Attached you will find the school calendar for the 17-18 and 18-19 school year. We are hopeful that they will help you with your planning for vacations and family events in the coming two school years.

Over the summer break, we are hopeful that you will continue to work with your children to maintain their skills in reading, writing, and math, and utilize some of your summer adventures as opportunities to reinforce some of the critical thinking skills they've acquired. Please note that summer programs are available at several of our schools, and you may be interested in enrolling your children in those programs. If you are aware of potential new students in your neighborhood, please encourage them to enroll during the summer. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 722-0176 and following the prompts.

Our school offices will begin closing for the summer on June 16<sup>th</sup>. The District Office will be open Monday-Thursdays 7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. beginning June 12<sup>th</sup> -July 28<sup>th</sup>. Regular hours will resume on July 31<sup>st</sup>. All offices will be closed July 4<sup>th</sup>.

To keep current on District/School events and news, please be sure to visit our newly re-launched website at [www.westside.k12.ca.us](http://www.westside.k12.ca.us).

We hope you have a wonderful, safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer vacation. We will look forward to your return in August for the 17-18 school year. Many of our schools will be holding Back-to-School Nights prior to the first day of school. Please be sure to check the school calendar or listen for a phone message from the school.

Sincerely,

Regina L. Rossall  
Superintendent

# Westside Round Up: A message from your principals

## Cottonwood

Cottonwood is moving full STEAM ahead in its transition to a school of choice in 2017-18. The results are in and Cottonwood's name change is official! Our school's new name is The IDEA Academy @Cottonwood. IDEA stands for Innovation, Design, Engineering, and Art. The student body is voting on a new mascot to be announced on the last day of school. Beginning in August, all students will also wear uniforms in school colors of navy, gray, and maroon. In other news this spring, some of our 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders visited Virgin Galactic Spaceport in Mojave, CA. They received a private tour of the hangar and saw spaceships being built. They participated in a design challenge to create their own model spacecraft with Virgin Galactic's engineers. Other end-of-the-year events include semester awards, Honors' Dessert for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students achieving Honor Roll and Principal's List, and the first annual staff vs. students kick-ball game. Go, IDEA Academy @Cottonwood!

-Laura Duran, Principal

## Esperanza

At Esperanza, we just finished our field trip season. All students had the opportunity to either go on a field trip or to have one brought in for them to experience. Our students have been to zoos, ranches, museums, and more. A big thank you to our PTA for making this possible. State testing was completed and students rose to the testing challenge! With testing underway, daily attendance was crucial. Our Jethawk's Attendance Challenge is just the ticket to reward students who arrive, on time, every day! Keep it up, Esperanza!

-Nicole Hernandez, Principal

## Hillview

Hillview was named a Gold Ribbon School in May, and our leadership team received the award at an event with the State Superintendent. Our LEGO team had a big competition at LEGOLAND in May. Many of our other clubs are also getting ready for different performances and events. We wish them all the best, and Good Luck! Hillview recently completed our first WASC visit with great results. Go Hawks!

-Jennifer Slater-Sanchez, & Rodney Lots, Co-Principals

## Anaverde Hills

It's hard to believe that we've reached the end of the school year! I would like to personally thank all of our staff, students and parents for their tremendous efforts this year! Our Anaverde Hills PTSA is extremely active and has committed their dedication to ensuring that we have such successful events including Lunch on the Lawn, Spring Festival, and our Viper Run. This year, our site added more technology to our classrooms and reached many milestones in sports and extracurricular activities such as Mathletes and Dancing Feet. On behalf of the entire Anaverde Hills staff I wish all of our families a restful summer! We will see you in August!!! GO VIPERS!

- Dr. Kristin Kruizinga, Principal

## Del Sur

DS Super Heroes lead the way! The month of May was exciting! We completed our CAASPP Testing for all third through eight grade students. We had a PTSA Color Run on May 19, as well as a Career Fair scheduled on May 25th for all of our students to learn about the many exciting careers available to them in the future. Our school wide garden is in full bloom! We would like to thank Sunrise Rotary again for all of their support with our garden! Thank you to everyone who has made our garden possible. This is a dream we had last year that became a reality. Go Dragons!

- Jessica Kott, Principal

## Gregg Anderson Academy

Summer is here! Our STEM program at Gregg Anderson Academy is second to none. All of our classrooms, from Kindergarten through grade six, are fully implementing the Project Lead The Way STEM program. Our students love this program. PLTW allows the students an opportunity to imagine, design, create and improve projects ranging from the human body to the creation of working robots. It is wonderful to see the students working collaboratively as they plan their STEM projects then use their critical thinking skills as they work our complex issues to ensure that their projects are successful. We are so excited to see that our students love learning so much here at Gregg Anderson Academy.

-Shelly Dearing & Thomas Morreale, Co-Principals

## Joe Walker

Joe Walker Middle School had a very successful turn-out at our annual Community Open House on March 16. Interested parents and students were able to see our special programs and activities on display throughout the evening, with Drama Club putting on a small play, Ballroom Dance and Band performing on multiple occasions, and Cheer getting everyone involved!!! It was a great night to showcase our amazing staff and students. Joe Walker Science Jets, (FIRST Lego Robotics team), attended the World Championships in Houston, Texas in April. We are so proud of their accomplishment as the only middle school team from the Antelope Valley to receive an invitation to attend the World Championships. GO JETS!!!

-Steve Wood, Principal

## Leona Valley

Leona Valley is ending the school year with a very full calendar. On May 18, they participated in a very successful Open House event where students and parents checked out many student created activities including an art gallery created by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. On another day, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students presented a musical, "How Democracy Came to the Beehive" where they learned about our form of government through a play format, and shared that information with the parents and other Leona Valley students. Students are also gearing up for a Talent Show on June 7<sup>th</sup> which will be part of their Community Picnic for parents. Along with all this, 6<sup>th</sup> grade sponsored a student and staff versus parent kickball game. Everyone enjoyed the game!

- Cathy Bennett, Principal

## Rancho Vista

As we near the close of the school year, Rancho Vista students, staff and parents are busy with special events. Our Open House on May 11 was a hit. Other PTA sponsored events included a Color Run to raise funds for PTA, and a Muffins for Mom event. Other events that occurred at RV include field trips to places such as the Feline Breeding Compound, the Discovery Cube, Agriculture Days at the Fairgrounds, and Natural History Museum. As the year nears an end, all grades will celebrate successes with an awards assembly, while sixth grade will also celebrate with a breakfast and a trip to Mulligans.

- Cathy Bennett Principal

## Valley View

This spring, Valley View continues to build upon the strengths of the student and family connection which is our valued tradition. Mrs. Hatchitt and Ms. Walker led two STEM nights this Spring in which over 50 families participated. We had a great response from parents and families stating that Valley View supports their families as partners in their child's education. We successfully developed a Robotics mentorship program in which our GATE students under the mentorship of Mrs. Patterson, sought out ways to build up our campus climate and culture during recess and lunches. Mrs. Tyson and Mrs. Dymowski created a partnership of 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 1<sup>st</sup> graders to work together with the Dot and Dash robots in coding and setting up challenges. Parents attended and watched how our students work together and collaborate. Finally, our EL Parent Tutoring program, led by Mrs. Reynolds empowered bilingual parents in working with their student on homework and early literacy activities for the summer.

-Rebecca Davis, Principal

## Quartz Hill

The fourth quarter of the 2016/2017 school year has been filled with fun and great educational experiences for our students. Grades third through sixth participated in an AVID Career Day in which students were able to learn about a variety of careers in many different fields. Students listened to guest speakers from the following fields: law enforcement, military, engineering, air traffic control, business ownership, movie directing, geology, and business management. Fourth grade students spent one day learning all about the Gold Rush. These students mined for gold, learned western dances, and wrote a story about the experience. To close out the school year, students from transitional kindergarten through sixth grade showcased their talents in our annual talent show.

-Andrea Paxton, Principal

## Sundown

Students at Sundown participated in the Perfect Attendance Challenge to earn a free ticket to a Lancaster JetHawks game in June. The Sundown PTA continues to do a wonderful job of connecting our students with the community and supporting Sundown students this year. Additionally, our PTA honored our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week May 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Then, the PTA celebrated Mother's Day with "Muffins for Moms" event on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> while Father's Day was celebrated with "Donuts for Dads" event on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sundown.

- Timothy Barker, Principal

## Westside Academy

Westside Academy had a busy May with reviews and state testing. We also completed our fundraising for Javier's memorial plaque and tree, and we had a beautiful ceremony with his family and friends. We were proud to celebrate Javier's life by beautifying our campus with a remembrance ceremony for a very loved and special child.

-Deborah Rutkowski-Hines, Principal

# Westside Announcements



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## WAVE Foundation

Amazon users don't forget to log in through [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) to support our schools. Type in "West Antelope Valley Educational Foundation" as your charitable organization and 0.5% of your eligible Amazon purchases will go to WAVE. Thank you for supporting our schools. Happy shopping!



## Box Tops

WUSD is always collecting box tops for education. Stop by your local WUSD school to drop off your collection of box tops.

## WUSD Mobile App



Download the  
Westside

Union School District mobile application for free. Get access to district news, schools directory, view upcoming events, lunch menus and more. Search for "Westside Union School District" in the App Store or Google Play.

## Summer Break

All WUSD schools will be closed for summer break on June 8th.

We hope you enjoy your break with fun learning activities.

**Anaverde Hills**  
2902 Greenbrier St.  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
(661) 575-9923

**Cottonwood**  
2740 West Ave P-8  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
(661) 267-2825

**Del Sur**  
9023 West Ave H  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
(661) 942-0488

**Esperanza**  
40521 35th St. West  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
(661) 575-0420

**Gregg Anderson Academy**  
5151 W. Ave. N-8  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
(661) 206-3750

**Hillview Middle School**  
40525 Peonza Lane  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
(661) 722-9993

**Joe Walker Middle School**  
5632 West Ave L-8  
Quartz Hill, CA 93536  
(661) 943-3258

**Leona Valley**  
9063 Leona Avenue  
Leona Valley, CA 93551  
(661) 948-9010

**Quartz Hill**  
41820 50th St. West  
Quartz Hill, CA 93536  
(661) 943-3236

**Rancho Vista**  
40641 Peonza Lane  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
(661) 722-0148

**Sundown**  
6151 West Ave. J-8  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
(661) 722-3026

**Valley View**  
3310 West Ave. L-8  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
(661) 943-2451

**Westside Academy**  
5606 West Ave. L-8  
Quartz Hill, CA 93536  
(661) 206-3711

# Westside Union School District 2017-2018 School Year Calendar

## **JUNE 2017**

8-30 VACATION - NO SCHOOL  
8-30 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

## **JULY 2017**

1-31 VACATION - NO SCHOOL  
10-14 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

## **AUGUST 2017**

1-5 VACATION - NO SCHOOL  
9 CLASSES BEGIN - MINIMUM DAY  
9 FIRST QUARTER/ FIRST SEMESTER BEGINS  
9 & 10 MINIMUM DAY  
28 MINIMUM DAY

## **SEPTEMBER 2017**

4 LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL

## **OCTOBER 2017**

9 & 10 PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE -  
NO SCHOOL  
13 FIRST QUARTER ENDS  
16 SECOND QUARTER BEGINS

## **NOVEMBER 2017**

10 VETERAN'S DAY - NO SCHOOL  
17 MINIMUM DAY  
23 LINCOLN'S DAY - NO SCHOOL\*  
21-24 THANKSGIVING - NO SCHOOL

## **DECEMBER 2017**

4 MINIMUM DAY  
15 MINIMUM DAY  
15 SECOND QUARTER/FIRST SEMESTER ENDS  
18-31 WINTER VACATION - NO SCHOOL

## **JANUARY 2018**

1-5 WINTER VACATION - NO SCHOOL  
8 CLASSES RESUME  
8 THIRD QUARTER/ SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS  
15 M.L. KING HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL  
22 MINIMUM DAY

## **FEBRUARY 2018**

19 PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

## **MARCH 2018**

16 MINIMUM DAY  
16 THIRD QUARTER ENDS  
19-30 SPRING VACATION - NO SCHOOL

## **APRIL 2018**

2 CLASSES RESUME  
2 FOURTH QUARTER BEGINS

## **MAY 2018**

28 MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL

## **JUNE 2018**

6 MINIMUM DAY  
7 FOURTH QUARTER/ SECOND SEMESTER ENDS  
7 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - MINIMUM DAY

\*Holiday observed on 11/20/17 in lieu of  
2/12/18

# Westside Union School District 2018-2019 School Year Calendar

## **JUNE 2018**

7-30 VACATION - NO SCHOOL  
8-30 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

## **JULY 2018**

1-31 VACATION - NO SCHOOL  
2-13 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

## **AUGUST 2018**

1-7 VACATION - NO SCHOOL  
8 CLASSES BEGIN - MINIMUM DAY  
8 FIRST QUARTER/ FIRST SEMESTER BEGINS  
8 & 9 MINIMUM DAY  
27 MINIMUM DAY

## **SEPTEMBER 2018**

3 LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL

## **OCTOBER 2018**

8 & 9 PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE -  
NO SCHOOL  
12 FIRST QUARTER ENDS  
15 SECOND QUARTER BEGINS

## **NOVEMBER 2018**

12 VETERAN'S DAY - NO SCHOOL  
19 LINCOLN'S DAY - NO SCHOOL\*  
20-23 THANKSGIVING - NO SCHOOL  
30 MINIMUM DAY

## **DECEMBER 2018**

3 MINIMUM DAY  
14 MINIMUM DAY  
15 SECOND QUARTER/FIRST SEMESTER ENDS  
17-31 WINTER VACATION - NO SCHOOL

## **JANUARY 2019**

1-4 WINTER VACATION - NO SCHOOL  
8 CLASSES RESUME  
8 THIRD QUARTER/ SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS  
14 M.L. KING HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL  
21 MINIMUM DAY

## **FEBRUARY 2019**

18 PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

## **MARCH 2019**

15 MINIMUM DAY  
15 THIRD QUARTER ENDS  
18-29 SPRING VACATION - NO SCHOOL

## **APRIL 2019**

1 CLASSES RESUME  
1 FOURTH QUARTER BEGINS

## **MAY 2019**

27 MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL

## **JUNE 2019**

5 MINIMUM DAY  
6 FOURTH QUARTER/ SECOND SEMESTER ENDS  
6 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - MINIMUM DAY

\*Holiday observed on 11/19/18 in lieu of  
2/12/19