

Ontario-Montclair School District

Community

Report

2009-2010



Learning Today - Leading Tomorrow



Ontario-Montclair School District Strategic Plan



Vision

Whatever It Takes

Mission

Whatever it takes, we guarantee our commitment to the highest quality education for all students.

District Motto

Learning Today - Leading Tomorrow

Guiding Philosophy

Continuous Improvement; every decision we make is centered on what is best for our students.

Shared Values and Beliefs are Keys to Our Success

TEAMWORK

Each individual has equal intrinsic worth
All people are teachers and learners
Achieving common goals requires cooperation, communication, and commitment

HIGH LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY

Individuals are responsible for their actions
Quality education for all is a shared responsibility
The education of children demands a commitment to their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development

DIVERSITY

Diversity enriches our community

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Democracy thrives through the active participation of an informed citizenry

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

High achievement requires high expectations



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The Ontario-Montclair School District S.M.A.R.T. Plan

The Ontario-Montclair School District (OMSD) has earned a reputation as the most highly effective and transformational school district in San Bernardino County. The school district is recognized for developing and implementing a systems-wide approach to increase student achievement and earning the greatest gains in schools reaching or surpassing all “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Academic Performance Index (API) targets.

Established in 1884 with 20 students, OMSD now educates nearly 23,000 students in 33 public schools in the city of Montclair, most of the city of Ontario, portions of Upland, and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County. The district covers 26 square miles. As the second largest elementary school district in the State of California, it serves a diverse student population speaking dozens of different languages. The district employs more than 2,200 people, making it one of the largest employers on the west side of San Bernardino County.



CSBA Golden Bell Award
OMSD Education EXPO

The school district has won many awards and grants for establishing high standards for student achievement and creating community involvement opportunities. The Education EXPO was the winner of the prestigious California School Boards Association’s Golden Bell Award. The Education EXPO is heralded as an interactive celebration of learning; bringing community members from throughout the county to the student showcase and education extravaganza. In addition, the district also won the Golden Bell Award for building the Montclair Community Collaborative. The collaborative builds on the premise that students’ success in school depends on working partnerships between schools, parents and members of the community. The Montclair Community Collaborative devel-

ops effective connections through comprehensive, community-wide strategic planning and actions. The California Post-Secondary Education Commission and the National Science Foundation-Partnership are two of the many grants awarded to OMSD to support student achievement and explorations in science and mathematics.

To best meet the needs of OMSD students and community, the district transformed three elementary schools and one middle school into district magnet school programs. The magnet programs are designed to meet the unique interest of students and their families. Each of the four magnet programs is designed to provide an option for students to become fully immersed in an enhanced specially designed course of study. The Buena Vista Arts-integrated Magnet School is a Kindergarten through sixth grade magnet program focusing on all four areas of the performing arts including dance, theatre, visual arts and music. The Vineyard STEM Magnet School will build to a Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade campus by August 2010 and focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Students enrolled at the STEM Magnet School have access to state-of-the-arts technology, video production and science laboratory classrooms. Central Language Academy currently serves Kindergarten through sixth grade and will build to include seventh and eighth grade by August 2011. The Central Language Academy is a language rich English academic instructional program with an option of full or partial immersion in Spanish. The goal of the Language Academy is to develop academic proficiency in two or more languages within a multicultural setting. The Vina Danks Keystone Academy hosts sixth through eighth grade students. Students enrolled in this magnet program participate in an enriched curricular program that binds challenging academics with social awareness. Technology, world languages, advanced mathematics and inquiry based learning are key program components that fully prepare Keystone Academy graduates for advanced high school studies.

Key to the district’s success is its work with community partners, volunteers, and colleges and universities. In 1998 Ontario-Montclair School District, in partnership with Chaffey College, created the Online to College program; a joint venture that promises OMSD students enrolled from the cities of Montclair and Ontario an opportunity to enroll in Chaffey College. The partnership aligns academic achievement with a “safety net” to ensure Online to College students receive the support needed for success. OMSD has also established partnerships with California State University, San Bernardino, and University of California, Riverside ensuring our teaching staff has access to high quality, researched based professional development recognizing our role in the development of a highly skilled future work force.

Our total commitment to our students, families, and community, and to continuous improvement is what makes Ontario-Montclair School District a leader in preparing our students for ongoing success.

Whatever It Takes



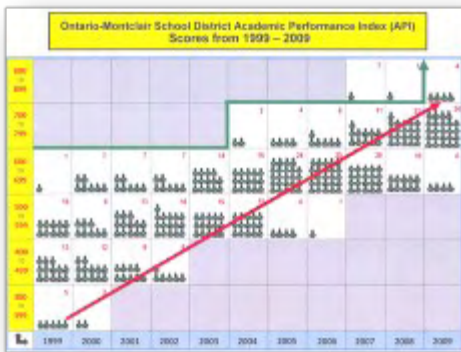
Dear OMSD Family, Friends and Community,

The Ontario-Montclair School District began the Strategic Planning process in 2006 with the establishment of the district's vision, mission and goals. The Strategic Plan was the beginning of our efforts to better align programs and resources to effectively boost student achievement. The goals in this plan were a "grass roots" effort created by all district stakeholder groups including teachers, site administrators, district office employees, management, as well as, representatives of the Ontario-Montclair Teacher Association and the California School Employees Association.



In 2008, our team deepened the Strategic Plan by building a systems approach to focus on specific strategies to ensure district goals supported the learner. We developed and implemented specific district initiatives that ensured a focus and drive for continuous improvement. A service orientation from all divisions helped ensure schools and students had access to all resources, curriculum and strategies needed to accelerate the learning process. A district-wide focus on improved student learning is now institutionalized.

Our successes come from the combined efforts of our employees, parents, students, community and partners. Together we will continue to do "Whatever It Takes" to guarantee our students the best educational opportunities. Listed below are a few of the recent examples of our accomplishments.



- In 2008-2009 OMSD Academic Performance Index (API) grew by 27 points from 705-732.
- OMSD schools meeting AYP targets increased from 4 to 23 in 2008-2009
- The number of schools meeting the state standard of 800 on API grew from one to four.
- Edison Elementary School was the recipient of the highly regarded Title 1 Academic Achievement Award in 2007 and 2008.
- Over five million dollars in grant funding has been provided through science and math partnerships with University of California, Riverside, California State University at San Bernardino, and San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.
- Four magnet schools including Visual and Performing Arts-integrated Magnet; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Magnet; Language Immersion Magnet; and a Middle School Keystone Academy Magnet program are designed to provide an option for students to become fully immersed in an enhanced, specially designed course of study.
- OMSD Education Expo has won the prestigious Golden Bell Award, the highest honor from the California School Boards Association.

Despite these accomplishments, we continue to strive to build innovative programs that are designed to embrace and transcend the traditional educational institution. With the dedication of students, staff and parents, we will remain focused on our top priority of promoting academic excellence and guaranteeing optimal learning opportunities for every student.

Virgil D. Barnes, Ed.D., Superintendent



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Goal #1

Safe Schools - Schools and work sites are safe and secure for students, staff and families. Our schools provide support structures and services to students to increase positive behavior among students.

Goal #2

Curriculum and Instruction - Students and staff benefit from a standards-based well aligned Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade instructional program. The instructional program offers a challenging curriculum that is delivered through high-yield instructional strategies that focus on the learner.

Goal #3

Learning Outcomes - All students will be proficient or advanced, or demonstrate a minimum of adequate yearly progress. Ongoing informal and formal assessments and observation drives instructional practice to ensure students receive best first instruction, and appropriate and timely intervention when needed.

Goal #4

Improved communication between all stakeholders - OMSD will integrate systems of communication to support the district's vision, mission and goals.

Goal #5

Improve the growth and development of district employees - Provide on-going professional development to all district staff based on needs-assessment and gaps in student learning outcomes.

Goal #6

Invest in resources that support student learning - Ensure that resources lead to improved student performance and are driven by the District Educational Plan.

Goal #7

Parent and community involvement - Create an authentic and proactive district and community partnership by coordinating resources in support of students and families.

GOAL #8

Organizational Culture - Develop an interdependent culture where adults do "Whatever It Takes" to ensure all students are well prepared for success in high school.



Goal 1

SAFE SCHOOLS

Students and staff shall be provided a safe and orderly environment.

One of Ontario-Montclair School District's highest priorities is the safety and welfare of our students and employees. Each school staff implements a Response to Intervention and Instruction (RtI²) Plan that focuses on both academics and behavior. The district RtI² team helps schools identify appropriate prevention and intervention strategies to ensure each student is treated with dignity and respect. The Outreach Consultant assigned to each school facilitates the RtI² process on each campus and serves as the community liaison for families and the community.

Administrators and managers recognize the need to comply with regulations governing injury, accident prevention, and student and staff safety. Everyone is expected to maintain a safe working environment and to follow safety rules while on Ontario-Montclair School District premises.



All schools and district offices have created a comprehensive safety and emergency preparedness plan to ensure that all schools are prepared in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The School Site

Council at each school developed an emergency preparedness plan that is incorporated into the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). Each school and district office practice emergency procedures and employees and families are encouraged to voice any concerns that they may have pertaining to potentially unsafe working conditions or suggest ideas for improved safety.



Goal 2

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Students and staff shall be provided an aligned and challenging curriculum and instructional plan focusing on the essential standards.

The Ontario-Montclair School District (OMSD) strives to create a collaborative and cooperative environment in which all staff serves as instructional partners and leaders. Teacher volunteers serve on textbook adoption committees and recommend instructional materials to the Board of Trustees for adoption. Teacher created pacing guides identify key concepts and essential standards that ensure a meaningful and consistent educational program for all students. The guides serve as instructional roadmaps for teachers that may be adjusted based upon the needs of their students. Periodic district benchmark assessments enable teachers and staff to identify standards that students have mastered and standards which need more instruction. The benchmark assessments serve as leading indicators regarding how well students are prepared to demonstrate proficiency of tested grade level standards on the state required standards tests.



OMSD has clear expectations and requirements for delivering and customizing instruction to meet the needs of students. Teaching techniques are grounded in the use of several key researched based instructional strategies. These strategies include: high levels of student engagement, Bloom's Taxonomy (higher order thinking strategies), teaching to the objective, structured academic discourse, vocabulary development, and writing for thinking and understanding. Staff is



encouraged to participate in lesson study and cognitive planning cycles leading to continuous improvement in instruction and learning. District-wide collaborative grade level curriculum councils assist in setting the direction for curriculum and instruction throughout the district.

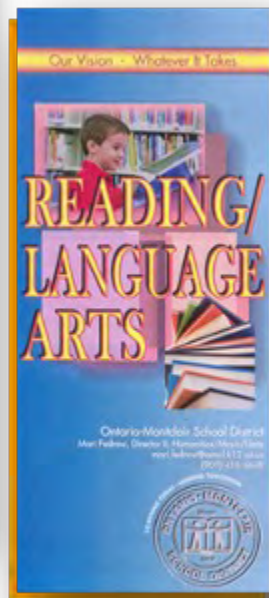
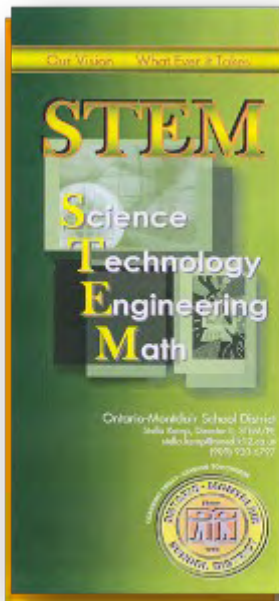
Goal 3

LEARNING OUTCOMES

All students will be proficient or advanced on essential California Standards in lan-

Ontario-Montclair School District has an expectation that all students will participate in a rigorous and relevant instructional program that focuses on the needs of each student. To meet this goal, OMSD ensures that all students have access to a coordinated and articulated District Base Instructional Program. The base program serves as the foundation for designing appropriate “between the bells” intervention and enrichment based on the learning needs of each student.

To ensure that all students are making appropriate progress, each school follows a Structured Teacher Planning Time (STPT) protocol. Grade level teams at each school site convene a STPT throughout the school year and after each district benchmark assessment to analyze benchmark data, identify students who may need intervention or enrichment, and to agree upon the most promising strategies to use with groups or individual students to increase achievement.



For students who struggle to attain proficiency, OMSD school sites and the Learning Support Services departments have embraced a Response to Intervention and Instruction (RtI²) model. Site and district personnel are trained on a tiered intervention approach which includes specific strategies of monitoring student progress. A critical aspect of the district RtI² is the design of an intervention communication system that ensures all sites have access to pertinent information about effective interventions.



Goal 4

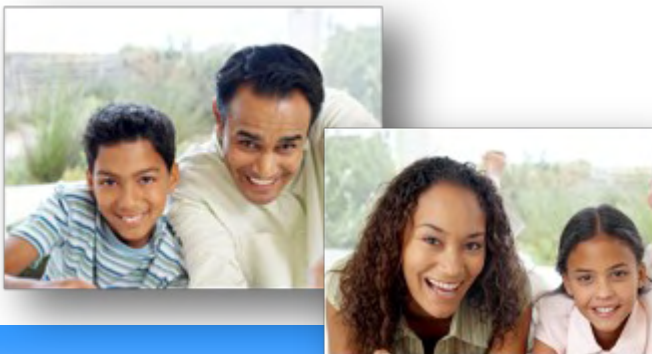
COMMUNICATION

Ensure that on-going and relevant communication includes the entire district community and stakeholders.

The Ontario-Montclair School District recognizes that on-going and meaningful communication is key to our success. Frequent “Coffee with the Superintendent” outreach meetings held throughout the community provide opportunities for the OMSD Superintendent to talk directly with families and receive input regarding district programs. School sites also provide a variety of forums for families and schools to build effective two-way communication. “Chalk Talk” communications are posted on the district web page and mailed home to keep parents up-to-date and informed.



In addition, the Family Support Services Division was established this year to help build stronger systems of communication and services to district families. Parent workshops, information sessions, and in depth training on particular issues of interest to families are provided by the Family Support Services Division helping to increase communication within our community.



Several divisions and departments within OMSD distribute newsletters and bulletins electronically on the district internal and/or external web portals. All employees who have an email account receive an e-mail link to the district website where they can access the latest editions. The file is printable for those who want a hard copy. Limited quantities of hard copies are available for employees who may not have regular access to computers. These publications serve as a link between district and school sites and offer an opportunity to inform staff of various opportunities throughout the district.

The district internal portal, “MyOMS,” gives all staff access to a wide variety of resources and materials that strengthen communication between teachers across the entire district. Teachers are highly encouraged to use the internal portal to share resources, materials and strategies with their OMSD colleagues.

Whatever It Takes



Goal 5

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Improve the growth and development of the workforce.

The Ontario-Montclair School District believes that the quality of the classroom teacher is central to the improvement of student achievement. The district also believes that high rates of student achievement are directly related to the quality of classroom instruction, and that the quality of instruction is dependent upon the content knowledge, teaching skills, and beliefs of the classroom teacher. We believe that teachers develop knowledge and skills through high quality preparation programs, meaningful coaching processes, and ongoing professional development.

All professional development in OMSD is closely tied and aligned to the district goals and focuses on desired student learning outcomes. To build the capacity within our own workforce, instructional coaches at all levels are engaged in “Trainer of Trainers” professional development training. This systematic approach to staff development ensures our coaches have the skills and capabilities to support professional development focusing on the district initiatives at their school site, thereby providing customized



“on the spot” professional development to their colleagues. District initiatives include student engagement; writing; English language support including structured verbal discourse, vocabulary development, and comprehension; and S.M.A.R.T. Leadership Team design.



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Goal 6

COMMUNICATION

Resources are focused on student performance needs.



The Ontario-Montclair School District resource allocations and expenditures focus on the needs of students and high yield strategies to support and enhance student achievement. A thorough analysis of student data results, classroom observations and staff input guides the district resource allocation plan. Resources provided by the district include staff and material resources. In order to support student achievement, each school site has a Site Instructional Support Team (SIST). For example an elementary SIST includes a Site Program and Assessment Coordinator who facilitates assessments, data analysis and intervention programs at the school site; an Instructional Coach who facilitates on-going professional development centered on district initiatives; an Outreach Consultant who serves as the community liaison and addresses needs of individual students; and two administrators to oversee all programs and staff.

Even in the current budget crisis, OMSD continues to provide all staff with the most current state and board adopted materials including resources to support English Learners and special education students. In addition, supplementary materials are also provided to support students who need to accelerate their learning. Technology resources, including DataDirector student achievement monitoring system, Smart Board technology, student response devices, and teacher lap tops, all focus on supporting student learning and engagement.

Resource allocation relative to professional development is key to continuous improvement in OMSD. National experts Dr. Kate Kinsella, John Antonetti and Jim Garver have partnered with OMSD to provide on-going, multi-year, systematic professional developmental focusing on research based, high yield instructional strategies for closing the achievement gap in student learning.



Jim Garver

John Antonetti

Dr. Kate Kinsella

Whatever It Takes



Goal 7

PARENT AND COMMUNITY

Create an authentic partnership where the district, parents and the community are seen as educational partners.

The Ontario-Montclair School District knows that a strong and supportive relationship between the district, its schools and families is essential for ensuring higher levels of student achievement. OMSD also knows that partnering with our community will bring resources and relationships to our district that will greatly benefit our students. To assist in this endeavor, the superintendent hosts family forums in the community with the purpose of bridging the gap between home and school. The Family Support Services Division also provides on-going opportunities to involve families in the education of their students and works with families to coordinate services and community resources. Individual school sites have established parent involvement plans that are an integral part of the school's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). Active Parent-Teacher Associations/Organizations, School Site Councils, English Learner Advisory Councils and District English Learner Advisory Councils strive to build stronger school-family partnerships.



The Ontario-Montclair community partnerships contribute greatly to the support of students and their success. On-Line for College is a partnership between OMSD, Chaffey College and the Alliance for Education that guarantees a college education for participating students. The University of California, Riverside, the San Bernardino Superintendent of Schools and OMSD have partnered to provide access to working scientists, student field studies and advanced learning for teachers in science education. The California State University at San Bernardino, San Bernardino Superintendent of Schools and OMSD have partnered to provide math professors and math specialists to our teachers helping to increase teacher expertise in teaching math resulting in higher levels of student math achievement.

Education EXPO Wins Golden Bell Award

The California School Boards Association awarded Ontario-Montclair School District its highest honor, the Golden Bell Award, for the Education Expo. The Expo began in 2004 and expanded each year to more than 5,000 community members attending the learning extravaganza. The Education Expo is an all day event focusing on the celebration of student learning and student performances. Dozens of community partners participate in the Expo making the event a true exposition of how strong district/family/community partnerships benefit the education of our students. The Education Expo is held each spring.



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A graphic for Goal 8 featuring a yellow circle with a circular arrow and the number 8, set against a blue and yellow gradient background.

Goal 8

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

Develop an interdependent culture where adults do “Whatever it Takes” to ensure all students are well prepared for success in high school.

The motto of the Ontario-Montclair School District is “*Whatever It Takes.*” We are committed to providing the best educational programs and processes for our students enabling them to be fully prepared for high school and beyond. We believe that the best way to accomplish this goal is to create and demonstrate effectiveness as a high functioning Professional Learning Community (PLC). In order to achieve our goal, we work diligently to build capacity within each school to fully embrace collaborative responsibility and accountability for all students’ learning. Leadership training for all Site Instructional Support Teams and Site Leadership Teams ensure that all schools embrace the collaborative culture focusing on the content and skills we want students to know, strategies for best first instruction, how we will know students learned the taught curriculum, and what we will do if students have not learned it.



All schools and district office staff have established clear learning and achievement targets relative to student performance. These targets are the focus of all decision making processes at all levels. Frequent monitoring and assessment of progress holds all members of the learning team accountable. Schools are encouraged to pilot programs and develop innovative programs that address the uniqueness of their school. Regular celebrations including Board Meeting recognitions, school and district newsletters, and walkthrough acknowledgments help build momentum throughout the district. The Ontario-Montclair School District is building a culture that ensures the district is highly competitive with other districts in student performance and in attracting the most highly qualified people to become employees of the district.

Whatever It Takes





Ontario-Montclair School District Office

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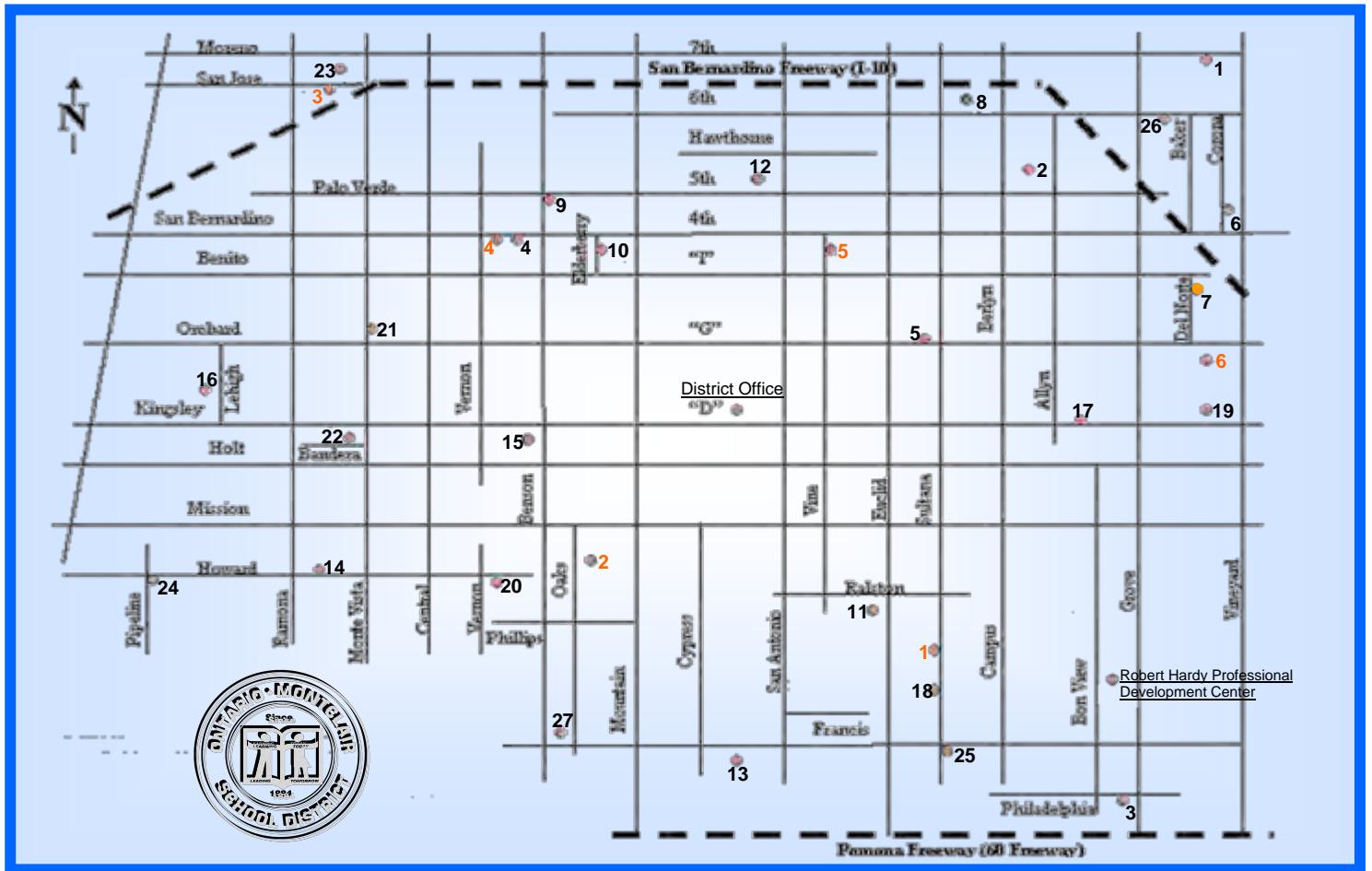
OMSD Board of Trustees

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Virgil D. Barnes, Ed.D., Superintendent
James Kidwell, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Human Resources
Jill Hammond, Assistant Superintendent, Learning Support Services
Casey Cridelich, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

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1. Arroyo Elementary
2. Berlyn Elementary
3. Bon View Elementary
4. Buena Vista Visual & Performing Arts Magnet
5. Central Language Academy Magnet
6. Corona Elementary
7. Del Norte Elementary
8. Edison Elementary
9. El Camino Elementary
10. Elderberry Elementary
11. Euclid Elementary
12. Hawthorne Elementary
13. Haynes Elementary
14. Howard Elementary
15. Kingsley Elementary
16. Lehigh Elementary
17. Lincoln Elementary
18. Linda Vista—SOAR Academy
19. Mariposa Elementary
20. Mission Elementary
21. Montera Elementary
22. Monte Vista Elementary
23. Moreno Elementary
24. Ramona Elementary
25. Sultana Elementary
26. Vineyard Science/Technology/Math Magnet
27. Vista Grande Elementary

1. De Anza Middle School
2. Oaks Middle School
3. Serrano Middle School
4. Vernon Middle School
5. Vina Danks Keystone Academy Magnet
6. Wiltsey Middle School



Whatever It Takes



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