



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Van Nuys Elementary
6464 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401
Telephone 818-785-2195 Fax 818-782-4173

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent of Schools
FRANNE GOLDSTEIN
Principal
KAREN RICHMOND
Assistant Principal, EIS

Dear Community Schools Steering Committee,

Van Nuys Elementary School, established over 100 years ago, has deep roots in its local community and is an ideal choice to become an LAUSD Community School. We are fortunate to have a strong, collaborative team of teachers and staff who have chosen to work at this school because we believe all students deserve success. We have taken proactive steps by developing strong relationships with parents, local businesses and resource centers. We have many student leaders that shine at our school, but unfortunately, at times, they do not have access to basic services that they need in order to be ready to learn and get the most out of their education. By becoming a Community School, we would be better equipped to tap into local resources, give back to our community, honor the local culture, and provide the best learning environment possible for our high-need students and their families.

Van Nuys Elementary understands and currently makes efforts to live the four pillars of a Community School model. Our Integrated Student Supports include a commitment to connecting students and families to service providers and to the programs that they need. Our Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW) connects families with San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center to provide both in and out of school counseling services for students and their families. Our PSW also conducts restorative justice workshops, parenting classes, and social skills groups for students. Likewise, our foster youth counselor hold drum circles for students as an engaging way to support their social emotional development by teaching them new ways to communicate. Through fundraising, we partnered with the YMCA to teach students about teamwork, good sportsmanship, and health through their physical education program two days per week. The Van Nuys High School ROTC program also comes to campus to work with at-risk 4th and 5th grade students on focus, responsibility, and respect.

We offer before and after school services for Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities. Our Ready-Set-Go! Program offers homework assistance and art enrichment activities from 6:00-7:50 a.m. We offer both the Youth Services (YS) and LA's Best programs after school from 2:13-6:00 p.m. to accommodate parents' work schedules. These services not only offer supervision, but also provide homework help, dance and P.E. Students in LA's Best have also participated in weekend sports matches, drill team competitions, and even a Science Fair. In addition, our teachers provide after school math intervention twice a week for 90 minutes for at-risk students. These services offered at alternative times provide students the review and practice they need and give parents the trusted supervision they expect.

In addition to the above mentioned activities for supporting parents, we address the third pillar, Family and Community Engagement, in various ways. Our school holds monthly "Coffee with the Principal" meetings to inform parents about school events, testing, school issues, and policy changes, as well as to gain their input. Our two Parent Center representatives have created their own group on a messaging tool to keep in constant communication with families, informing them of upcoming events, activities, and volunteer opportunities. In the fall, we offered ESL classes to provide parents with skills to better communicate, not only with teachers and school leaders, but in the community. Teachers also recently organized a Community Potluck as a social event with parents, where they offered assistance registering for the Parent Portal, as well as discussed future events and services they would like to see at our school. The event was culturally and linguistically

relevant to the community as we offered translation, popular food and music. Furthermore, there are monthly "Cookies with the Coaches" workshops where our school's leadership team provide information and training on academic topics for families to engage in learning at home. The team organized both a Math Night and Literacy Night for families. The teachers leading the sessions provided parents with take-home kits, including games and tools for practice, so they can engage in learning at home, ensuring their awareness and connection to their child's academic understanding.

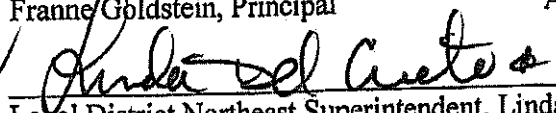
In addressing the fourth pillar, Collaborative Leadership and Practice, our school strives to include parents in its decision making as much as possible and in various ways. Our SSC and ELAC meet with parents monthly to discuss the school budget and other school decisions, and parents are encouraged to express their opinions and suggestions. The PTA provides another opportunity for families to get involved in events and decision making, giving them creative and social ways to be active leaders in the school community. Furthermore, our School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention & Support team collaborate with teachers, students, and parents to utilize restorative justice practices and positive reinforcement strategies.

As evidenced above, Van Nuys Elementary is already aware and fervently working on strategies to better help our students and families. We have many school partnerships in place with the community, but continue to see a need to expand these services for the success of our students. Current partnerships include our second year of collaborating with San Fernando Community Mental Health Center. Hamlin Dental is a local dentists' office adjacent to our school that has provided our families with dental health screenings and services. Likewise, a local homeless shelter, Hope of the Valley, has partnered with our school on numerous community service activities. If our school was to be selected as a Community School, we plan to reach out to more human and health offices to provide the services our families are unable to access on their own. Furthermore, we hope to provide services for our foster and homeless population, providing financial literacy assistance, clothing and food assistance, and assistance with housing. We hope to offer more parent education courses, including financial literacy and parenting classes, community service and learning opportunities, and health care and social service programs to better prepare students and families for the future. In addition, we have been working with the Van Nuys City Council and other agencies to gain parking spots for teachers and staff, as we do not have a dedicated parking lot. In addition, Van Nuys Elementary works continuously with our family of schools, including Van Nuys Middle School, which offers presentations to our matriculating 5th graders as well as Van Nuys High School, which provides us entertainment in the form of concerts and plays.

As detailed above, Van Nuys Elementary School understands the value of collaboration and community partnerships to ensure the success of our students, and our staff is eager to continue to build on our current work. If given the privilege of being selected as a Community School, we are confident our school would move forward on our current trajectory of building bridges within the community to provide our students the desperately needed wraparound services to ensure their academic, social, and emotional success. The partnerships we have in place have been immensely helpful in particular for our growing population of newcomers, but the resources offered would allow us to assist them in a more comprehensive way, uniting student, family, school, and community. We lack the funding and resources to maximize our impact. Thus the need for an official status as a Community School. Regards,


Franne Goldstein, Principal


Ana Barron, UTLA Chair


Local District Northeast Superintendent, Linda Del Cueto

ATTACHMENT A

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DESIGN TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

A design team should represent all stakeholders of a school – Principal, Teachers, Counselors, Students, Parents, and Community Partners. **FILLABLE FORM**

NAME OF SCHOOL: Van Nuys Elementary School			
NAME	ROLE AT SCHOOL (e.g., Teacher, Parent, Principal, Student)	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
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