

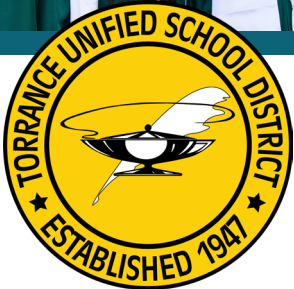
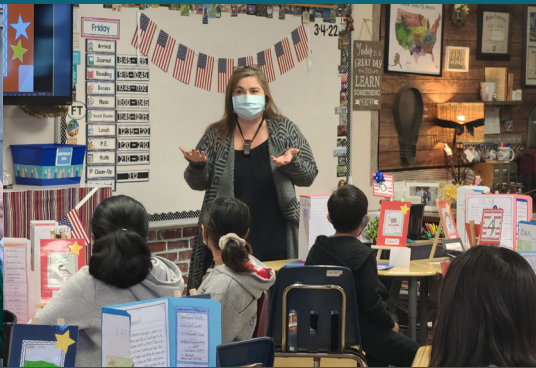
STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS

Annual Report to the Community



FALL 2022

High Levels of Learning for All Students



Torrance Unified School District

2335 Plaza Del Amo

Torrance, CA 90501

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Then and Now: 75 Years of World-Class Learning

The 2022-2023 school year marks a significant milestone for TUSD as we celebrate 75 years of educational excellence. While TUSD has grown and changed considerably since 1947, our dedication to students, their families, and our staff remains unwavering. Our success is grounded in a shared mission to empower every student, every day, with every opportunity to learn and grow. We accomplish this together, in partnership with teachers, classified staff, administrators, families, and the community.

Reflecting on our past, we are proud of the progress we've made. Looking to the future, our focus is on continuous improvement. We are expanding academic programs, developing new learning experiences, and providing students with extensive extracurricular opportunities. As you read through the third edition of the TUSD State of Our Schools, you will get a glimpse of the future-focused programs in which our students are engaged.

Part of preparing students for their future success also includes investing in resources that prioritize their wellness and mental health. Over the past few years we have increased counselors and therapists on campuses, and are providing all staff with training on social-emotional learning and ways to support students in their educational journey. Through a culture of collaboration, schools, families, and the community work together to create learning environments where students feel safe, supported, engaged, and accepted.

Following last year's recognition, TUSD has once again earned the title as the 2022 South Bay's BEST School District by the Daily Breeze Readers' Choice poll! Thank you to those who voted for us and to the community for making Torrance students a priority.

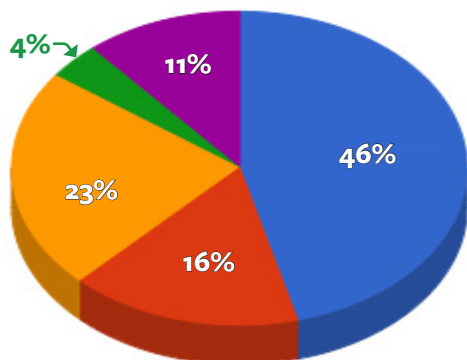
As we kick-off a new school year, I am excited about the endless possibilities available for our students to learn, achieve, and thrive!

Tim Stowe, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Budget breakdown:

■ Certificated Salaries	\$135,973,000
■ Classified Salaries	\$48,547,000
■ Employee Benefits	\$67,785,000
■ Supplies/Materials	\$11,229,000
■ Other Operating	\$33,099,000
TOTAL	\$296,633,000



New Board of Education Trustee Areas

In April 2022, the Board of Education took action to move from At-Large elections to Trustee Area elections starting in November 2022. However, because the incumbent Board of Education members in Trustee Areas C, D, and E are running unopposed, there will be no TUSD school board election in November. The uncontested election will save TUSD approximately \$250,000. The next school board election will be held in November 2024, for Trustee Areas A and B.

Thank you to Board President, James Han (Trustee Area C), Vice President, Dr. Jeremy Gerson (Trustee Area E), and Member, Betty Lieu, Esq. (Trustee Area D) for their willingness to serve for another term on the Board of Education. We would like to additionally thank them, as well as Clerk, Jasmine Park, and Member, Dr. Anil Muhammed, for their continued leadership and service on behalf of the TUSD community.



80 Languages
Spoken by
TUSD Families

Developing Future Teachers

Torrance Unified is taking new steps to develop our teacher workforce. Using grant funding from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, we are embarking on initiatives aimed at supporting and developing future teachers.

The Teacher in Residence Program is currently in the planning stages and will officially kick-off in 2023-24. In partnership with the Alder Graduate School of Education (Alder GSE), we will be able to provide teacher training and coursework that enables participants to earn their teaching credential and Master's Degree in one year, and ultimately a potential teaching position with TUSD. Grant funds will support participants through stipends as they spend an intensive year working in our classrooms and taking Alder GSE coursework.



Recruitment begins this Fall! Individuals with a Bachelor's Degree and a desire to become a teacher are encouraged to apply today! For more information, please visit the Alder GSE website: <https://aldergse.edu/>.



Keeping Schools Safe

The best way we can keep our schools secure is to have multiple layers of safeguards in place and provide a safe learning environment through preparedness and awareness. We are grateful to the Torrance community for recognizing the need to invest in strengthening school safety by voting to pass Measure T in 2014. We have taken the following measures to improve school safety:

- **'Quick lock' capability installed on every door in the District**
- **Buzzer/single point of entry systems**
- **Video surveillance cameras (over 1600 district-wide)**
- **Raptor visitor screening and check-in system**
- **Fencing enhancements to strengthen school perimeters**
- **Practice Drills: fire, earthquake, and intruder on campus (we will be adding toxic air event drills)**

Currently, we are also in the process of installing school-wide communication systems that include paging and digital clocks/scrolling text capability to assist with emergency response.

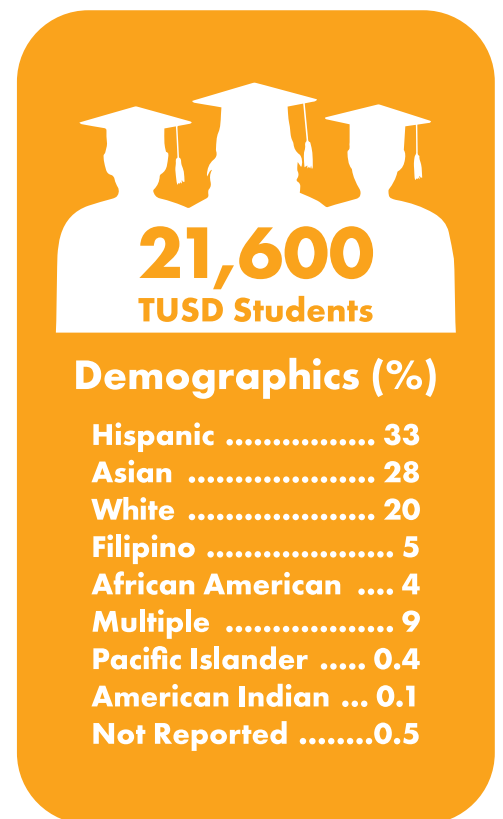
We work closely with the Torrance Police and Fire Departments (TPD/TFD) to annually review and update school site safety plans. They also have access to our camera system in the event of an emergency. Additionally, TPD provides School Resource Officers who work collaboratively with school administrators to help keep school communities safe.

Training is also a key component of making sure everyone on a school site is prepared and aware of safety measures and protocols. Staff are trained annually on emergency preparedness, including working with the TPD and TFD on emergency training and response. Additionally, in 2018 we partnered with the Sandy Hook Promise to provide



student training on anonymous reporting of any suspicious behavior or student threats to harm themselves or others.

Our schools work collectively to create environments where everyone in the school community is committed to keeping one another safe and we continually remind everyone, if you see or hear something, please say something.



Building a Brighter Future



Future Focused with Career Technical Education

Career Technical Education (CTE) engages students in an integrated learning experience. Students are given the opportunity to master the technical and academic knowledge necessary for a lifetime of learning and career development. Our award winning CTE programs also give students the chance to compete and network through student organizations which provide leadership opportunities and scholarships.

CTE pathways include health sciences, engineering, sustainable agriculture, fashion design, computer science, commercial photography, theater arts production, media, culinary arts, and many other fields of study. We are introducing two new pathways this year - Early Childhood Development and Public Safety, providing students even more chances to explore and discover their career interests.

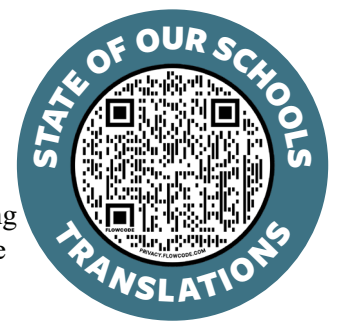


State Seal of Civic Engagement

The Class of 2022 were the first students to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE). Students awarded the SSCE exhibited excellence in civics education through successful History/Social Science course completion, school citizenship, and by completing a civics based project and presentation which demonstrated:

- *A competent understanding of the functions and governance of local governments.*
- *Participation in one or more civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems.*
- *Character traits that reflect civic mindedness to positively impact the community.*

In May 2022, high school students across California, including eight from TUSD, were chosen to present and participate in the California Civic Learning Student Showcase and Awards Ceremony at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. Their projects exemplified high-quality civic learning practices and outcomes. Congratulations to the students who earned their State Seal of Civic Engagement!



75 YEARS SERVING STUDENTS

Student Development & Learning Excellence

Inventor Mindset

This year's STEAM Fair expanded to include students across all grade levels and created a pipeline for students to participate in the first ever South Bay Regional Invention Convention, which was hosted by TUSD. The Invention Convention is an initiative to bring invention education into schools by emphasizing critical thinking and problem solving.

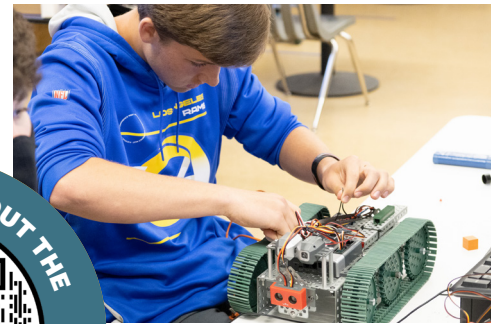
Overwhelmed by the number of participating students from across the South Bay, 63 students from the regional competition qualified to compete at the State level. In an amazing feat, 26 TUSD students qualified to move on to Nationals.

Held in person, the 7th annual National Invention Convention took place at The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan in June 2022. Coming together from across the nation, students engaged in a unique experience where they shared their creations and had the opportunity to see what problems other students sought to solve through their inventions. We are excited to announce that two TUSD students, Violet Cummings and Remi Martinez, participated in the Global Invention Convention, representing Torrance on an international stage.

Early College Program, Expanding Access to Higher Education

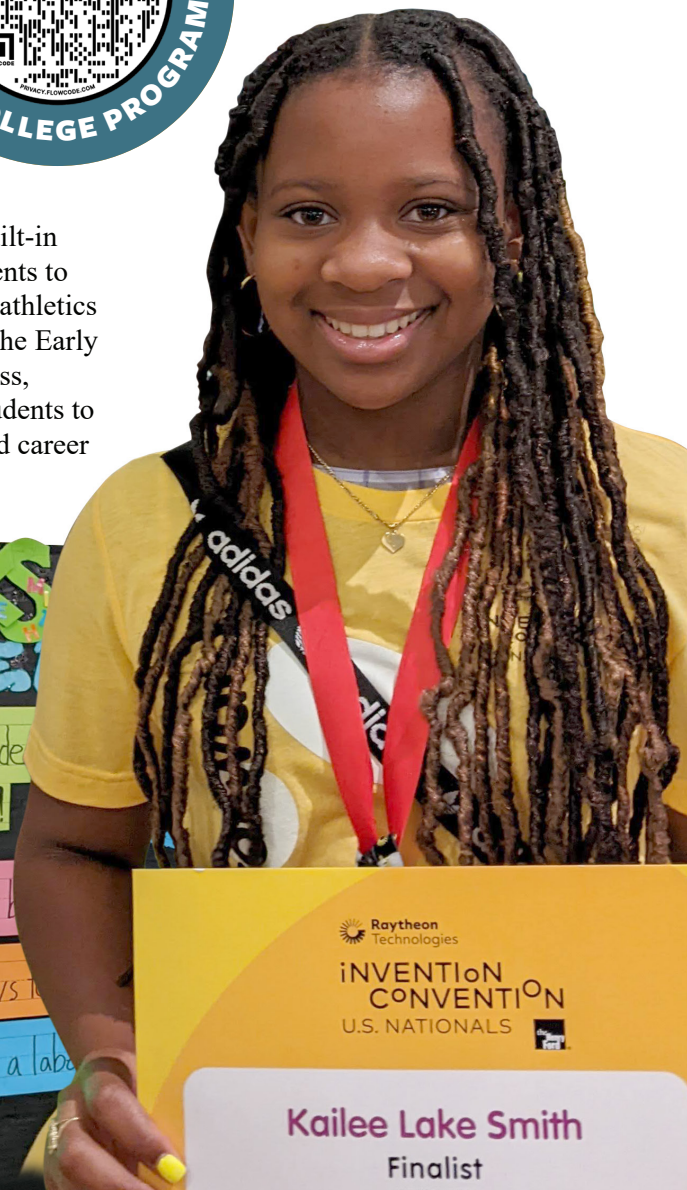
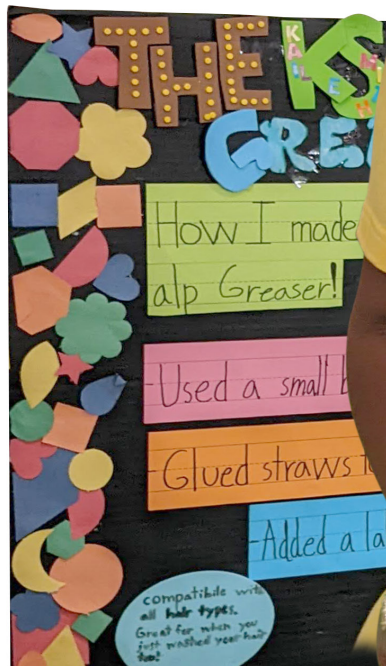
The Early College Program at North High School begins this school year with 70 students. In partnership with El Camino College (ECC), students in the program will concurrently complete high school graduation requirements and college course work. During this time, they have an opportunity to earn an associate's degree, or up to two years of college credits toward a bachelor's degree, as well as have the opportunity to take courses towards their major.

The beauty of this program is that it is completely free for students and covers the cost of tuition and books. Another aspect of this program is the built-in flexibility that will enable students to fully participate in high school athletics and extracurricular activities. The Early College Program provides access, opportunity, and support for students to work toward their academic and career goals while still in high school.



95%
Graduation Rate

34 Schools



Raytheon Technologies
INVENTION CONVENTION
U.S. NATIONALS

Kailee Lake Smith
Finalist

Sports Achievements & Support



Season Wrap-Up, High School Athletics

With an extraordinary season during the 2021-2022 school year, TUSD student athletes excelled in physical competitions while developing valuable life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and pride.

This season's wrap-up includes outstanding achievements for many of our teams as well as individual athletes, including CIF championships in basketball, track, volleyball, and wrestling. West and South High cross country and wrestling teams earned prestigious state level championships and well deserved accolades for their standout season! A few of the distinctions include:

North High

Girls Swim - 200 and 400 Freestyle relay teams qualified for CIF finals
Girls Track & Field - finished 4th in CIF Division 3

South High

Wrestling - CIF Southern Section Division 4 Champions - dominating in Wrestling with this 4th consecutive win!

Torrance High

Girls Volleyball - CIF Southern Section Division 5 Champions and CIF Southern California Regional Champions

Softball - CIF Southern Section Division 2 Finalists and CIF Southern California Regional Finalists

Baseball - CIF Southern Section Division 2 Finalists

West High

Boys Cross Country - CIF Division 3 State Champions - winning their 2nd State Championship!

Girls Soccer - CIF Southern Section Division 3 Finalist and CIF Southern California Regional Champions

The Don Lee Field at Torrance High School

The Torrance High School Girls Softball Team will have a brand new sports complex to call home this school year! The Board of Education approved to name the facility after long-time Torrance resident and community leader Don Lee. He is not only a former TUSD School Board Member and former Torrance City Councilman, but a former Torrance High Tartar who has dedicated decades to serving the Torrance community.

Some features of The Don Lee Field will include seating for over 200 spectators, a scoreboard, and permanent structures for concessions. It will also include state-of-the-art lighting for night time play, which integrates video capabilities for high-quality live streaming of games.

Esports Tournament Scores High

Middle and high school students participated in the first ever eSports season this past year. Esports began during the spring, with team and individual competitions, including League of Legends, Madden Football, Rocket League, Mario Kart, Splatoon, and Super Smash Brothers. All four high schools qualified for CIF playoffs and one made it all the way to the state finals and finished in 2nd place in Splatoon. All middle schools participated in competitive eSports leagues and culminated their inaugural season with a tournament in Mario Kart and Super Smash Brothers. Similar to traditional school sports, eSports practices and competitions took place in the afternoons, on campus. A growing phenomenon, competitive gaming is hugely popular and we hope to continue to expand our eSports teams in the coming school year!

Building Teamwork and Leadership, New Middle School Sports Program

A robust middle school sports program launched last year which featured open access to a series of after-school clinics. Students participated in open tryouts for teams and were able to represent their school in competitions and tournaments for Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Track, and Volleyball. Opportunities during the school day were also offered such as "noon leagues" and corn-hole tournaments. These popular events strengthened the camaraderie and school spirit on each campus.

Katherine Castleberry - Principal, Lincoln Elementary School, ACSA State Elementary Principal of the Year

"It has been my absolute honor to work in Torrance Unified alongside administrators who are unwavering in their commitment to best serve the needs of staff and students. Our shared collegiality and camaraderie elevates each of us and encourages us to work diligently on the betterment of our school communities."

Richard Vazquez - North High School Graduate, Director of Purchasing & Communication Services

"As a TUSD graduate and now a proud staff member, I have experienced firsthand our commitment to maximizing individual potential and developing lifelong learners. It remains an honor and a privilege to serve the amazing students and faculty within the community that I call home."

Remi Martinez - 3rd grade student

"I love school because I get to do my favorite things like reading, exploring, and solving problems. My teacher is always very helpful and supportive. And I love school because I get to see my friends!"