SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



At Monte Vista Elementary School, we envision a community where kindness, leadership, communication, and perseverance are the foundation of our shared journey. We believe that kindness is the key to building strong relationships and creating a positive environment where everyone feels accepted and valued.

Through leadership, we empower our students to be confident, responsible, and empathetic individuals who inspire others to reach their full potential. Communication is at the heart of our community, where we listen actively, speak honestly, and collaborate effectively to achieve common goals.

We embrace challenges with perseverance, knowing that each obstacle is an opportunity to learn and grow. Students, families, and the community work together to create an inclusive environment. At Monte Vista Elementary School every voice is heard, valued and empowered to thrive.



At Monte Vista Elementary School, we cultivate a united and supportive community where kindness, teamwork, and perseverance drive success. Through inclusive learning, open communication, and a commitment to growth, every student, family, and staff member is empowered to thrive and contribute to a brighter future.

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION



Felisa Gear Principal



Jennifer Taylor Assistant Principal



Jacqueline Robért Site Coordinator of Community Schools

Monte Vista Elementary School 2116 W. Monta Vista Ave. Santa Ana, CA 92704 Phone: (714) 564-8500

CCSPP: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

School Site Contact Information

Monte Vista Elementary School Felisa Gear, Principal 657-3080638 felisa.gear@sausd.us

Strategies, Priorities and Goals

Strategy 1: Shared Commitment, Understanding, and Priorities

Engaging with interest-holders to address the question "Why a community school for our school?" has provided invaluable insights into our collective vision for a more inclusive, supportive, and effective educational environment.

At Monte Vista Elementary our commitment to creating *racially-just, relationship-centered spaces* is evident in our approach to fostering inclusivity and equity. By integrating the principles of social justice into our curriculum and extracurricular activities, we aim to create an environment where all students, regardless of their racial or ethnic background, feel valued and respected. Monte Vista plans to implement:

- Culturally responsive teaching practices
- Host regular diversity and inclusion workshops for staff, students, and families
- Continue with our mentorship program that pairs students with role models from similar backgrounds

Monte Vista believes in the *power of shared decision-making*, where the voices of students, parents, teachers, and community members are equally valued in shaping the direction of our school. This approach fosters a sense of ownership and accountability among all stakeholders. Our developmental plans include:

- Continuing to add members to our established community school leadership council composed of students, parents, teachers, and local community leaders.
- Conducting regular meetings, focus groups and surveys to gather input and feedback from the broader school community.
- Creating platforms for students to share their voice, ideas, lead projects, and initiatives that matter to them.

At Monte Vista, we believe in making *classroom-community connections*. Strengthening the bond between the classroom and the community is central to our vision of a community school. We aim to create a connection between academic learning and real-world experiences, ensuring that education is relevant and impactful. To achieve this, we will:

- Strive to partner with local businesses and organizations to provide experiential learning opportunities.
- Integrate community-based projects into the curriculum, allowing students to apply their knowledge to address local challenges.
- Continue to organize community service events that involve students, staff, and families working together for a common cause.

Our approach to *focus on continuous improvement and possibility thinking* drives us to constantly seek better ways to support our students' growth and development. By fostering a culture of innovation and reflection, we aim to create an environment where every student can thrive. Our plans include:

- Continuing to use data-driven strategies to monitor and enhance student progress.
- Encouraging professional development for teachers focused on innovative teaching methods and educational technology.
- Continuing to promote a growth mindset among students, encouraging them to embrace challenges and view failures as opportunities for learning.

To ensure that our community school's work reflects these values, we have developed comprehensive plans that include professional development that will provide training sessions for staff on equity, inclusivity, and culturally responsive teaching.

- Student Leadership Programs: Initiatives that empower students to take on leadership roles within the school and the community.
- Parent and Community Engagement: Workshops and events designed to build strong partnerships between the school and the families we serve on topics important to our students, families, and community.
- Resource Allocation: Strategic distribution of resources to ensure that all students have access to the support they need to succeed and that remove barriers for them to be able to succeed.
- Feedback Mechanisms: Systems for collecting and acting on feedback from students, parents, and community members and partners to continually improve our practices.

By committing to these values and implementing these developmental plans, we strive to create a community school that not only meets the needs of our students but also empowers them to become active, engaged, and responsible members of society. Our dedication to racially-just, relationship-centered spaces, shared power, classroom-community connections, and continuous improvement ensures that our school is a place where everyone can succeed and thrive.

Part B

As we move forward with the implementation grant process and secure site-level resources, it is crucial to deepen our understanding of the needs and assets within our community. This comprehensive assessment will help us identify top priorities and articulate a clear vision for our community school. Our approach will involve engaging various groups through diverse and inclusive processes, ensuring that all voices are heard, especially those from historically marginalized communities. Monte Vista will engage:

1. Administrators

 Continuing to engage administrators by involving them in deep engagement with the groups below.

2. Certificated Staff

- Surveys: Implement anonymous surveys to capture teachers' insights on student needs and curriculum enhancements.
- One-on-One Interviews: Conduct individual interviews to understand personal experiences and suggestions for improvement.
- Focus Groups: Host focus groups to discuss pedagogical strategies and collaborative opportunities.
- Feedback: Continue to cultivate open communication to collect and act on feedback to continually improve our practices and their needs for success.

3. Classified Staff

- Surveys: Use surveys to collect feedback on operational support and resource needs.
- One-on-One Interviews: Engage in personal interviews to gain insights into daily challenges and potential solutions.
- Feedback: Continue to cultivate open communication to collect and act on feedback to continually improve our practices and their needs for success.

4. Students

- Surveys: Administer age-appropriate surveys to gather student opinions on school climate and support services.
- Focus Groups: Hold student-led focus groups to encourage candid discussions about their experiences and needs. Explore the possibility of forming a Student Council.
- Visioning Exercises: Involve students in visioning exercises to foster a sense of ownership and agency in the community school.

5. Family Members

- Surveys: Distribute multilingual surveys to ensure accessibility and inclusivity in gathering family feedback.
- One-on-One Interviews: Conduct interviews with families to understand their unique perspectives and concerns.

 Community Meetings: Host community meetings to facilitate open dialogue and build strong partnerships with families.

6. Community Members and Partners

- Surveys: Implement surveys to gather input from local organizations and community leaders on potential collaborations.
- Focus Groups: Organize focus groups with community stakeholders to explore joint initiatives and resource sharing.
- Community Walks: Conduct community walks around the neighborhood to identify potential partnerships, gather input, and share school information on current initiatives and events.

To ensure that historically marginalized student and family groups are actively involved in the needs and asset assessment process, we will adopt targeted strategies that prioritize their inclusion and address potential barriers to participation.

1. English Learners

- Multilingual Surveys: Provide surveys in multiple languages to ensure comprehension and accessibility.
- Community Meetings: Community meetings will be held in the group's dominant language with translation services.

2. Special Education Students

- Tailored Surveys: Design surveys that accommodate various learning needs and communication styles.
- Individual Interviews: Conduct interviews with students and their families to gather detailed information on specific needs.
- Inclusive Focus Groups: Create focus groups that ensure all voices are heard, with necessary accommodations in place.

3. Foster Youth

- District Foster Youth Liaison: Invite the District's Foster Youth Liaison to meet with foster youth and inform them on resources and engage them in feedback.
- Supportive Focus Groups: Organize focus groups with a supportive and safe environment to encourage open sharing.
- Personalized Visioning Sessions: Facilitate visioning exercises that respect the unique experiences of foster youth.

4. Homeless (McKinney-Vento) Students

- Accessible Surveys: Provide surveys in easily accessible formats and locations.
- One-on-One Outreach: Conduct personal outreach through school counselors or social workers to build trust and gather input.

• Support Meetings: Organize meetings at convenient times and places, offering food, childcare, transportation and other logistical support.

5. Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students

- Equitable Surveys: Ensure surveys are accessible and relevant to students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Community Resource Interviews: Use community resources to facilitate interviews and focus groups.
- Inclusive Visioning Exercises: Design visioning exercises that are inclusive and considerate of economic challenges.

To effectively engage all stakeholders, we will employ a variety of processes tailored to the needs and preferences of different groups:

- Surveys: Conduct comprehensive surveys to gather quantitative and qualitative data from all stakeholders.
- One-on-One Interviews: Facilitate personal interviews to obtain detailed and nuanced perspectives.
- Focus Groups: Organize focus groups to foster collaborative discussions and deeper insights.
- Meetings: Hold regular meetings to maintain open communication and continuous engagement.

By employing these strategies, we aim to create a holistic and inclusive needs and asset assessment process that reflects the diverse perspectives and priorities of our entire community. This will ensure that our community school initiative is grounded in a shared vision that addresses the unique needs of all students and families, especially those from historically marginalized groups.

| | Draft Collective Priority | Outcome/Indicators you aim to improve |
|--|--|---|
| | Decrease Student Chronic Absenteeism: Foster a school community where every student is present, supported, and thriving. | Decrease Chronic Absenteeism by 1%. Target: Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students for early attendance intervention and awareness. 40 case managed students for attendance. Average days absent per student (for a target group). |
| | Increase Academic Growth in and Achievement in Reading and Math: Foster enduring academic excellence by student growth and achievement in reading and math, laying the foundation for lifelong learning and success. | When looking at student data for reading and math for Kinder to 5th grade students we will review with: AR Quizzes Report SIPPS Mastery Tests Benchmark Unit Assessments DIBELS CORE MAP Reading and Math Results i-Ready Reading and Math Results |
| | Increase in Social-Emotional Learning and Well-Being to Increase Student Sense of Belonging (School Connectedness): Foster lifelong social-emotional growth and well-being to cultivate a deep, enduring sense of belonging and connection within the school community. | Panorama Student Survey/Increase of Student Sense of Belonging (School Connectedness) by higher percentage rates with a focus on 4th-5th graders and early prevention and intervention for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students' families at: Inclusive and culturally responsive community Integrated student supports such as case management and mentorship Mental Health Referrals Social-Emotional Support Second Step Curriculum utilized in all TK-5 classrooms. |

Part C:

Strategy 2: Centering Community-Based Learning

Site Level Goals and Measures of Progress

| Goals | Action Steps |
|--|--|
| Begin implementation of Tufts University Project Rise | Schedule regular meetings with UCI Project Rise representatives. Integrate their resources into our school programs for Preschool to Transitional Kindergarten. Implementation support for preschool 5 times during the school year (2-hour sessions). |
| Take inventory of current Community-Based Learning Practices. | Survey teachers to document current CBL activities and methodologies. Build on the current CBL activities and methodologies. Discuss options and begin professional development opportunities for all teachers. |

Strategy 3: Collaborative Leadership

Site Level Goals and Measures of Progress

| Goals | Action Steps |
|--|--|
| Develop robust partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and government agencies to support the school's mission. | Regularly engage with partners through meetings, collaborative projects, and joint events. Assure mutual benefits. Leverage assets. Foster regular and open communication by regular communication channels and feedback mechanisms. |
| Student Representation: Ensure that students are represented on school committees and in decision-making bodies for the academic school 2025-2026. | Recruit and invite students for each grade level to join school committees and Community School Leadership Council to voice their opinions and contribute to school governance. Educate and engage students in how school committees and decision-making bodies function what their purpose is. |

The Community School Leadership Council (CSLC), Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports team (PBIS) and School Site Council (SSC) are the cornerstones of shared governance at our community school. They are composed of a diverse group of stakeholders, including teachers, classified staff, community school coordinator, students, administrators, community partners, and parents. These inclusive councils and teams ensure that decision-making is collaborative and reflect the interests and needs of the entire school community. In our CSLC part of our governance processes we hold regular monthly meetings to discuss different items pertaining to our community school initiatives and make decisions as a collective. Meetings are open to the broader school community to ensure transparency and encourage wider participation. Decisions are made through a consensus-building process to ensure that all voices are heard and considered. For critical issues, voting may be used, with each stakeholder group having equal representation. Our principal acts as the primary leader, ensuring the implementation of CSLC decisions and the smooth operation of the school. Facilitates collaboration among staff, students, and community partners, and oversees the overall academic and administrative functions. The goals of teams and councils are:

- Inclusivity: Ensure that all stakeholder voices are heard and valued in the decision-making process.
- **Transparency:** Maintain open communication and provide regular updates on council activities and decisions.
- **Collaboration:** Foster a collaborative environment where stakeholders work together towards common goals.
- Accountability: Hold all members accountable for their roles and responsibilities in supporting the school's vision.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Regularly assess and refine governance processes to better meet the needs of the school community.

This shared governance and site-level leadership structure is designed to promote collaboration, enhance school effectiveness, and create a supportive and inclusive environment for all members of the school community.



Strategy 4: Sustaining Staff and Resources

Site Level Goals and Measures of Progress

| Goals | Action Steps |
|--|--|
| Continue conducting deep staff asset mapping to begin considering future staff sustainability. | Create and organize listening campaign materials, questions and surveys. Schedule one and one interviews with certificated and classified staff. Discuss findings with CSLC to brainstorm ways to increase sustainability. Reimage staff structures and roles to foster sustainability. |
| Increase teacher capacity by offering Capturing Kids Hearts Professional Development | Complete professional development training. Identify and encourage teachers to implement strategies. Monitor implementation Provide coaching |

Key Staff/Personnel

| Felisa Gear | Principal |
|-------------------|---|
| Jennifer Taylor | Assistant Principal |
| Jacqueline Robert | Site Coordinator of Community Schools |
| Wendy Lopez | School Counselor |
| Angelina Alcantar | Site Coordinator Engage 360 Program |
| Taniqua Leon | Site Supervisor Engage 360 Program |
| Jacqueline Reyes | Family and Community Engagement Liaison |

At a site-level the steps and plans we will take to build sustainability are:

- 1. Capacity Building:
 - **Professional Development:** Invest in ongoing professional development for teachers and staff to build internal capacity and expertise in community school practices.
 - **Leadership Development:** Cultivate leadership skills among students, teachers, and parents to ensure a pipeline of future leaders who can sustain initiatives.

2. Community Partnerships:

- Strengthening Relationships: Deepen relationships with local businesses, non-profits, and community organizations to secure additional resources and support.
- **Volunteer Programs:** Establish robust volunteer programs that leverage community expertise and involvement in school activities.

3. Data-Driven Decision Making:

- **Impact Evaluation:** Regularly evaluate the impact of programs and initiatives to identify successful strategies that should be sustained.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Use data to inform continuous improvement efforts and make necessary adjustments to ensure long-term success.

At a district-level the plans to build sustainability for community schools are the support and commitment to community school initiatives from our Board of Education and Executive Cabinet. Both are involved in facilitating and implementing the community school strategy. By focusing on these strategies, your community school can build a strong foundation for sustainability that extends beyond the life of the implementation grant, ensuring continued success and growth at both the site and district levels.

Strategy 5: Strategic Community Partnerships

Site Level Goals and Measures of Progress

| Goals | Action Steps |
|--|---|
| Establish Strong and Mutually Beneficial Partnerships | Needs and Assets Assessment: Conduct comprehensive assessments to identify community needs and assets that align with school goals. Engage community partners in the assessment process to gather diverse perspectives and insights. Clear Partnership Agreements: Develop Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or partnership agreements that outline roles, responsibilities, and expectations. Ensure agreements are mutually beneficial and focus on the holistic development of students, families, and the community. Regular Communication: Establish regular communication channels, such as newsletters, meetings, and digital platforms, to keep partners informed and engaged. Schedule periodic check-ins to discuss progress, challenges, and upcoming opportunities. |
| Foster Continuous Improvement and Innovation | Feedback Mechanisms: Implement regular feedback mechanisms, such as surveys and focus groups, to gather input from community partners. Use feedback to make data-driven decisions and adjust programs and initiatives as needed. Data Sharing and Analysis: Establish data-sharing agreements that allow for the collection and analysis of data relevant to partnership activities. Use data to track progress, measure impact, and identify areas for improvement. |

Monte Vista has established partnerships with several key community organizations to enhance the educational experience and support the holistic development of students, families, and the community. These partnerships are responsive to the vision and priorities of students, staff, families, and community members by addressing key needs and priorities identified through collaboration and needs assessments. Here is how each partnership aligns with the school's vision and priorities:

Big Smiles On-Site Mobile Dentist

- Alignment with Vision: Promoting health and wellness among students, which is essential for their overall well-being and academic success.
- **Priority Addressed:** Access to dental care, which can be a barrier for many families, impacting students' health and attendance.
- **Impact:** Provides convenient access to dental services, improving oral health outcomes and supporting students' ability to focus on learning.

Second Harvest Food Distribution

- Alignment with Vision: Addressing food insecurity among students, families and community which is crucial for their health and academic performance.
- **Priority Addressed:** Ensuring that students have access to nutritious meals, both at school and at home.
- **Impact:** Reduces hunger among students, improves nutrition, and supports overall health and well-being.

Santa Ana College School of Continuing Education

- Alignment with Vision: Providing educational opportunities for parents and adults in the community to improve their English language skills and digital literacy.
- **Priority Addressed:** Supporting language development and digital literacy, which are essential skills for success in school and beyond.
- **Impact:** Empowers parents and adults in the surrounding community to participate more fully in the school community and access additional educational and career opportunities.

Child Creativity Lab

- Alignment with Vision: Enhancing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education and creativity among students.
- **Priority Addressed:** Providing engaging and hands-on learning experiences in STEAM subjects, which are critical for 21st-century skills.
- **Impact:** Fosters creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills among students, preparing them for future academic and career success.

Santa Ana Early Learning Initiative

- Alignment with Vision: Supporting early childhood development and school readiness among young children in the community.
- **Priority Addressed:** Ensuring that all children have access to quality early childhood education and development opportunities.
- **Impact:** Prepares young children for success in school and beyond by providing a strong foundation for learning and development.

Responsive Partnership Approach

- **Needs Assessment:** Regular needs assessments will be conducted with input from students, staff, families, and community members to identify priorities and gaps.
- **Partnership Alignment:** Partnerships are selected and developed based on our community school alignment with identified needs and priorities.
- **Collaborative Planning:** Partnerships involve collaborative planning to ensure that programs and services meet the specific needs of our community school.
- Feedback and Evaluation: Ongoing feedback and evaluation will be used to assess the impact of partnerships and make adjustments as needed to better meet the needs of the community.

Overall, Monte Vista's partnerships are integral to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment that addresses the diverse needs of students, families, and the community. These partnerships reflect a commitment to collaboration, innovation, and community engagement in advancing the school's vision and priorities.