

SOAR

SPRING 2023



FAMILY TIES

CELEBRATING SIBLINGS AT THE PRENTICE SCHOOL

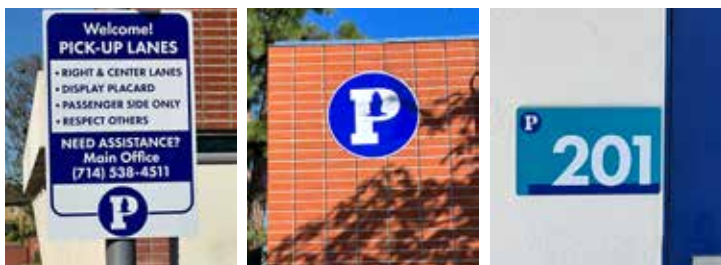
Dream Team

CLAIRE PASSARO RETURNS TO PRENTICE

After 5 years with the OC and LA School of the Arts, Claire Passaro has returned to The Prentice School. Her new position as Director of Program situates her in the place she loves best... working side-by-side with the faculty and students. She'll also work closely with Devon Green and Sabrina Clark to expand curriculum and program, making her return to Prentice even more exciting!



Sabrina Clark, Assistant Head of School with Devon Green, Head of School and Claire Passaro, Director of Program.



The Spirit Eagle Flies High!

A NEW LOGO TAKES FLIGHT ACROSS CAMPUS

This year, The Prentice School launched its new logo... a culmination of the "Education Elevated" brand launch that began in Winter 2021. Our new "Spirit Eagle" identity combines our school mascot with a collegiate "P", creating a visual connection to our school and mascot.

The Spirit Eagle has been rolled out to all interior and exterior signage, spirit wear, on our website and our marketing channels. Thirty-six years later, the Prentice Eagle continues to SOAR!

Lower Ratios

SMALL GROUPS TAKE OVER PRENTICE

Prentice's strength is rooted in numbers... small numbers, that is. With a target enrollment of 12 students per homeroom, our student-to-teacher ratio was already low in comparison to traditional education environments. Plus, for the last three years, we have leveled our elementary students into smaller groups of 5 or less for their daily Orton-Gillingham Structured Literacy class. Citing the success of these classes, the Prentice administration made the decision to continue down the path of adjusting our ratios even lower!

This year, we launched an expansion of our small group model, adding **all** elementary math and writing courses. To achieve our goal, we converted two of our classrooms into four new Small Group classrooms. These new classrooms, located in our Academic Enrichment building, accommodate up to 8 students and a teacher, providing the perfect space for focused learning.

Leveled with their peers, our elementary students now spend over 50% of their day learning in groups of 8 or less, allowing our teachers to provide an immersive and individual learning experience for each student.



Mrs. Canton working with a small group of students



Our newly remodeled Junior High history classroom

New Spaces

JUNIOR HIGH ROOMS UPGRADED

At Prentice, we believe it is critical to focus on creating learning environments that promote collaboration, comfort, engagement, and inclusion.

The junior high rooms have undergone a recent remodel, with new furniture from Scholar Craft being installed. This furniture includes specially designed tables and chairs that allow for flexible seating arrangements, as well as mobile workstations that promote interaction and group work.

By providing students with the right environment for their learning style, we can help them develop the understanding of what they need to succeed in school and beyond.

Overall, we are excited about the positive impact that this new furniture will have on our students, and we look forward to seeing the many ways in which it will help them grow and learn together.

Who are Orton & Gillingham?

The Prentice School uses The Orton-Gillingham Approach as the core for its Structured Literacy classes. But, who are Orton and Gillingham?

In the early 20th century Dr. Samuel Orton and Anna Gillingham, developed a teaching approach based on the idea that students with dyslexia need explicit, systematic, and individualized instruction in order to learn the fundamentals of language. Now called the Orton-Gillingham Approach, this structured, multi sensory approach is used to teach reading, writing, and spelling to students with dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities.

The Orton-Gillingham Approach focuses on teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension in a sequential and cumulative manner, with each lesson building on the previous one. It uses a multi sensory approach that engages the student's visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile senses, helping them to connect the sound and shape of letters with their corresponding sounds.

For over 80 years, the approach has been shown to be effective in improving reading skills and self-esteem in students with dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities.



A student during a Mind Masters working memory cognitive training.

Memory Working

AN UPDATE ON MIND MASTERS

Working memory is a critical component of our cognitive processes, especially when it comes to learning and academic success. It is the ability to hold and manipulate information in our minds over short periods of time, and it plays a vital role in tasks like reading, writing, and problem-solving. For students with learning disabilities, however, working memory can be a major obstacle to academic success.

Fortunately, The Prentice School has implemented a working memory program called Mind Masters, now in its second year, to help students develop their working memory skills. Led by Dr. Eugene Wong from California State University, San Bernardino, this program has been specifically designed to help our students build their working memory and improve their academic performance.

Utilizing interactive iPad cognitive training games, Mind Masters challenges students to expand their working memory capacity by increasing the number of items they can hold in their minds at one time. Designed to combine cognitive training with a fun and engaging format, this program focuses on developing working memory skills in the areas of visual-spatial processing and executive functioning. Mind Masters is a scheduled 20 minute daily class for participating students.

We are very excited to share the final data results from 2021-22 for our school. Using data from the students that participated in the program there was noticeable improvement in each of the cognitive abilities targeted through the cognitive training programs.

Working memory performance improved 7.9%! We saw even greater improvement in processing speed and cognitive flexibility with processing speed increasing 23.2% and cognitive flexibility jumping 40.5%!

Our long-term goals are to show that by building their working memory skills, students are better equipped to meet the academic demands of their grade level, creating a positive impact on their confidence and motivation as they begin to see themselves as capable learners.

We will continue to analyze our aggregate data and release findings annually in the Fall of each year.

Amplified

WE LAUNCH A NEW ELA PROGRAM

Amplify ELA is a comprehensive English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum that is designed to provide students with a rich and engaging learning experience. It is a research-based, Science of Reading rooted program that is aligned with state standards and is designed to help students build critical thinking skills, develop a love of reading and writing, and become effective communicators. Amplify ELA provides teachers with a wide range of resources and tools to support their instruction, including lesson plans, assessments, printed and digital activities. The program is also highly adaptable, allowing teachers to tailor their instruction to the needs of individual students.

The Prentice School implemented Amplify CKLA and Amplify ELA to all students in grades 1 - 8. The program's digital resources and activities provide Prentice students with an engaging and interactive learning experience that is well-suited to their learning styles.

"The Amplify ELA program is great for our students", stated Monika Matuszak, 6th grade teacher at Prentice. "It allows students to annotate and highlight directly on the screen for easy reference. Plus, the content is engaging for the students. It gives tools that allow me to focus the students like a launching prompt to automatically start the students at the exact same spot when they open their devices. It also dynamically differentiates the students so that I can easily level their small groups. It is an amazing system that fits nicely into our Science of Reading collection of programs and tools."



A student working with the Amplify ELA program



LEARN MORE

Scarborough's Reading Rope

Scarborough's Reading Rope is a model of reading developed by Hollis Scarborough in 2001 that represents the complex set of cognitive and linguistic processes involved in reading. The model consists of two intertwined strands: the language comprehension strand and the word recognition strand.

The language comprehension strand represents the reader's background knowledge, vocabulary, and syntactic awareness, all of which are necessary for understanding the meaning of what is being read. The word recognition strand includes phonological awareness, decoding, and sight recognition, all of which are necessary for recognizing words accurately and fluently.

The two strands are tightly interwoven, as accurate and fluent word recognition is essential for comprehension, and comprehension provides the necessary context for word recognition. Additionally, the strands are influenced by factors such as motivation, attention, and memory.

Scarborough's Reading Rope highlights the importance of addressing both language comprehension and word recognition in reading instruction, as well as the need to develop strategies to support struggling readers in both areas.

Scientific Method

A NEW ELEMENTARY SCIENCE LAB

This year, with the help from a generous STEM grant from Burns & McDonnell, we were able to completely remodel our elementary science lab in the Academic Enrichment building.

The grant allowed us to replace all the desks with six science tables, stools and cordless LED microscopes for each student. We were also able to double our inventory circuit board STEM kits.

“It has been amazing to give students more individual hands-on STEM experiences,” says Taryn de Jesus, elementary science teacher at Prentice. “Instead of students looking at one slide and learning together, each student is now able to engage and learn in a whole new way. They can not only learn how to properly handle the microscope to view a slide, but they are also able to explore the wonders of nature from a blade of grass to the wing of an insect at their own pace. Additionally, the circuit boards have been a wonderful tool to help our kids understand general electricity and the flow of electrons through a medium.”



The Burns & McDonnell STEM Grants Program is designed to partner with schools to inspire the next generation of STEM leaders in communities across the country where its employee-owners live and work. In 2022, Burns & McDonnell gave more than \$1.2M in STEM grants.

“Burns & McDonnell employees rely on STEM skills every day and we are committed to helping equip students, teachers and parents with the tools to inspire the future STEM workforce,” says Rashmi Menon, vice president and general manager for Burns & McDonnell in California. “As a mother myself, I’m honored to lead an organization who is committed to investing in the next generation.”



Students working with their new microscopes, funded by the Burns & McDonnell STEM grant.

Family Ties

CELEBRATING SIBLINGS AT PRENTICE

Did you do a double-take walking down the hallway? Didn't you just see that person out by the Junior High lunch area? Even though our students come to us from as far as 75 miles away, many of them see familiar faces each day. Nineteen of our students attend school with a sibling! Check out our siblings photo shoot!



Colin and
Kate Berbaum



Caroline and Mandy
Saldana



Ella and Jillian
Bronson



Carter, Addie and Gage
Oberlin



Dane and Audrey
Aboulhosn



Amanda and Andrew Rahn



Roman and Lucas Jellison



Tessa and Emily Monterastelli



Maxwell and Marcus Lopez

The Gala is Here...

AND BIGGER THAN EVER!

We're so excited to be hosting this year's Education Elevated Gala. Last year, with over 200 guests in attendance, we raised almost \$500,000, making it our most successful gala to date. Our goal is to exceed that amount for this year's gala!

This year's Education Elevated Gala will be held at the Marriott Irvine Spectrum on Saturday, April 22, 2023. This beautiful venue will allow us to expand our event with a large ballroom, outdoor cocktail and auction space, with the convenience of a central Orange County location. As with our previous Gala's, we will be hosting a silent auction (opening on-line one week prior to the event), an incredible live auction and our Scholarship Paddle Raise. As always, all funds raised will allow us to continue to prepare and empower our students for a life of self-advocacy, personal growth and the understanding that their differences can be their strengths.

I'm also pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be **Jonathan Mooney**. Jonathan is an award winning writer, entrepreneur, and activist who did not learn to read until he was twelve years old.

The Prentice School was founded to create a space that would give children with dyslexia the education they deserved. We continue to grow and expand our mission to teach students with language-based learning differences and co-occurring conditions that they are creative, intelligent and capable of becoming our future leaders.

We are committed to investing in our students, teachers and staff with evidence-based curriculum, state of the art classroom, a beautiful 6.6 acre campus, and much more. We are looking forward to sharing how we work to continually innovate and provide an award winning program to our students.



Chiemi Lee
Director of Development



GUEST SPEAKER



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Jonathan Mooney
Author of "Normal Sucks"

EVENT INFORMATION

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL EDUCATION ELEVATED GALA

Saturday, April 22, 2023
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Irvine Spectrum Marriott
7905 Irvine Center Drive
Irvine, CA 92618

Individual Tickets: \$300

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



Register online at Prentice.org/Gala or scan the QR code.

Family Spirit

CATHY WARD GIVES BACK TO PRENTICE

We are excited to shine a spotlight on a donor that exemplifies the Prentice spirit. Cathy Ward, longtime philanthropist and Orange County resident, is grandmother to three current Prentice students. She serves on the board for the Southern California Public Radio, the Monarch Foundation Board at Mater Dei High School, and the Biosphere Foundation.

How did you first hear about Prentice?

The school was recommended to my daughter Brenna Oberlin when my granddaughter Addie was having trouble with reading in first grade. We have been so fortunate to have had Addie there and she is now in 5th grade. She will complete her primary education there as will her two brothers, Gage and Carter who are both in 3rd grade.

What made you decide to give your first gift and why do you continue to give to Prentice?

At the beginning, I only supported the school with donations to Addie's Fit-A-Thon efforts. It did not take very long until I decided to give larger and more significant donations as the positive results of her attendance at Prentice became more apparent. Now Prentice is educating and helping Gage and Carter, both of whom have similar but different learning challenges. Having Prentice available to them has been an enormous blessing and they are blossoming under the wonderful care that the teachers there are giving them. Addie continues to improve tremendously as well. How can I better care for my grandchildren than by making sure that they are receiving the best educational help possible and helping those who are helping my grandchildren.

"Hours that used to be spent trying to get homework finished is now spent in productive family time. Thank you, thank you!"

What is your favorite part about Prentice, or do you have a favorite story about Prentice you'd like to share?

I guess my favorite "part" about Prentice is the way they teach the children how to cope with their unique learning differences. The way they help them gain in self-confidence and teach to them to advocate for themselves is wonderful to see and experience. Self-confidence is a gift for a lifetime.

How has your involvement with Prentice impacted you and your family's lives?

Brenna is with my grandchildren every day and continuously sees their growth and improvement. Their attending Prentice has taken the stress out of school and doing homework. Hours that used to be spent trying to get homework finished is now spent in productive family time. Thank you, thank you!

If you were talking to someone else about giving to Prentice, what would you tell them?

If you have a child or grandchildren who have learning challenges and are able to attend Prentice, I would ask – "What are you waiting for?". Supporting a school like Prentice is all about the future for your loved ones. It's worth every penny of the cost of tuition. I will support in any way I can to ensure that Addie, Gage and Carter can attend Prentice for as long as necessary.

What do you hope to accomplish through your philanthropy?

Helping others with tuition assistance is part of what drives my philanthropy. Giving others the chance to receive tuition support is helping to create a better world overall that my grandchildren will be living in. Philanthropy is a gift that often returns as much to the donor as to the donee. That feeling of giving back is extremely fulfilling and rewarding. If one has never yet given a gift, and if they can, there is nothing like the emotional rewards of doing something good for others.



Cathy Ward with grandchildren Gage, Carter and Addie Oberlin.



THE PRENTICE SCHOOL
18341 Lassen Drive
North Tustin, CA 92705

EDUCATION
ELEVATED

gala

THE PRENTICE SCHOOL

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EDUCATION ELEVATED GALA

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5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Irvine Spectrum Marriott
7905 Irvine Center Drive
Irvine, CA 92618

Individual Tickets: \$300

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