

NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT – 2015-16

Who We Are and What We Believe

Our Mission

The Novato Unified School District is an innovative and effective education system that provides diverse academic experiences to meet individual student needs, and challenges students to realize their educational potential.

Our Vision

The Novato Unified School District is committed to providing an educational experience that will:

- ensure students possess academic and technical knowledge to enter successful careers and post-secondary experiences.*
- prepare all students to be successful, responsible, and productive citizens and leaders in a diverse and global society*
- encourage students to embrace a variety of learning opportunities throughout their lifetime*
- provide students with tools to unlock their full potential*

The Novato Unified School District will exemplify excellence in education by ensuring high quality, innovative instruction and equitable access to learning opportunities that inspire and prepare students to reach their utmost success.

Our Schools:

Hamilton Elementary School 5530 Nave Drive (415) 883-4691 Steve Hospodar, Principal

A K-8 school, the administration, staff and parents are committed to academic excellence and social development. They host a KIPP inspired "School Within a School" model – Knowledge is Power Program. In 2010, Hamilton received the Title 1 Academic Achievement Award from the state of California, the only school in Marin County to receive such an award. In 2010, Hamilton also received a \$250,000, five-year grant from the Marin Community Foundation to implement an Early Success - Pre K-3rd grade initiative.

Loma Verde Elementary School 399 Alameda de la Loma (415) 883-4681 Tehniat Cheema, Principal

Verde's focus is to continue to improve student achievement for each child in the school. The mission is to meet each child's needs by focusing on individualized learning goals. Their academic growth is directly related to their focus on meeting the needs of a diverse student population, incorporation of math strategies and "debate" focus. The staff is committed to rigorous curriculum with a focus on engagement and differentiation strategies that include the use of technology in the classroom. Loma Verde has a math enrichment club composed of 4th and 5th graders. In 2010, Loma Verde received a \$150,000, five-year grant from the Marin Community Foundation for a transformation project.

Lu Sutton Elementary School 1800 Center Road (415) 897-3196 Bonnie Barron, Principal

The staff at Lu Sutton is committed to a school-wide culture of Universal Achievement. Their commitment is for every student to be academically proficient in the core academic areas. Lu Sutton received a state Distinguished School Award in 2009 and in 2012. In 2010, Lu Sutton received a five-year grant from the Haas Foundation for a Pre-K-3rd grade Early Literacy and Family Engagement program.

Lynwood Elementary School 1320 Lynwood Drive (415) 897-4161 Andy Cline, Principal

Lynwood has a very ethnically and economically diverse community offering a variety of educational programs that meet the needs of all students in English Language Development classes to self-contained 4th and 5th grade Gifted and Talented Education classes. Lynwood has an after-school program, awarded through a three-year state grant and has an on-site preschool in its second year of operation. In 2010, the school received a \$250,000, five-year grant from the Marin Community Foundation to implement an Early Success Pre K-3rd grade initiative.

Olive Elementary School 629 Plum Street (415) 897-2131 Elizabeth Sesma-Olinyk, Principal
Olive is a member of the No Excuses College Prep Network and is known for encouraging a climate of collaboration through Professional Learning Community Strategies and believing that each child will be proficient in English Language Arts and Mathematics with no exception. Individual student goals are set, progress is monitored, and instruction plans are based on data analysis. Olive also promotes teamwork with families and believes in caring for the Earth through its Green Team where students actively recycle and compost and each class has a planting bed in the school garden.

Pleasant Valley Elementary School 755 Sutro Avenue (415) 897-5104 Dana Sadan, Principal
Instruction is standards-based and is supported by the close partnership between school staff and parents. Small group clusters are implemented in grades K-5. Pleasant Valley hosts special community events such as Unity Day, Giving Day, and Grandparents' Day. Parent Information Nights include Grade Level Curriculum and Technology Nights. Pleasant Valley received the 2009 & 2010 Scholar Schools Award from the California Business for Education Excellence for high student academic achievement and closing the achievement gap.

Rancho Elementary School 1430 Johnson Street (415) 897-3101 Angela Kriesler, Principal
Rancho Elementary School is one of eight elementary schools within the Novato Unified School District. Rancho is unique in that it has a small neighborhood boundary making it available for a limited number of intra-district transfers. Rancho is a consistent Scholar Schools Award winner from the California Business for Education Excellence for high student academic achievement and closing the achievement gap.

San Ramon Elementary School 45 San Ramon Way (415) 897-1196 Amada Langford, Principal
San Ramon staff is strongly committed to working collaboratively to address the needs of all students through a well-articulated instructional program that supports the state standards and district-adopted curriculum. A California Distinguished School in 1995 and 2000, San Ramon uses program such as Accelerated Reader, Step Up to Writing, Six Traits of Writing, Read Naturally, and SRA Reading Labs to support student achievement. Character Counts!, a program emphasizing the Six Pillars of Character, is also embraced at San Ramon to support the goal that all children will achieve academic success and will be treated with respect. San Ramon became a Distinguished School in 2012.

San Jose Middle School 1000 Sunset Parkway (415) 883-7831 Justin Mori, Principal
San Jose Middle School (also known as San Jose Intermediate) embraces beliefs and practices designed to help every student become prepared to attend college after graduation from high school. San Jose has an award-winning music program and incorporates Project Based Learning (PBL) in core curricular classes promoting 21st Century skill development. San Jose utilizes a school wide rewards system emphasizing respect and responsibility where students earn daily college "units" in each of their classes towards College Friday events and activities in conjunction with staff, parent, and community support.

Sinaloa Middle School 2045 Vineyard Road (415) 897-2111 Jim Larson, Principal
Sinaloa is a supportive community of staff, parents, and students where students are inspired and positively challenged to acquire the knowledge and skills to live as responsible, caring, and contributing individuals in a changing world. Sinaloa holds high academic standards that support students' preparation for college and post-secondary education. Sinaloa received the 2009 Scholar Schools Award from the California Business for Education Excellence for high student academic achievement and closing the achievement gap. In addition, Sinaloa was selected as a California Distinguished School in 2008.

Novato High School 625 Arthur Street (415) 898-2125 Matt Baldwin, Principal
Novato High is a community of learners and has a long tradition of excellence. NHS believes that every student has the potential to advance their academic pursuits beyond the high school experience. NHS houses an award-winning school within a school, Marin School of the Arts, which attracts students in Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties. Academically NHS offers many AP and Honors courses and a strong college prep program which results in 98% of their students attending a 4 or 2 year college or university. NHS also offers a full range of competitive athletics and extra-curricular activities in a safe and nurturing environment.

San Marin High School 15 San Marin Drive (415) 898-2121 Adam Littlefield, Principal

San Marin is committed to providing students with the highest quality education, rigor and opportunities to explore interests in academic, athletic, artistic, and extracurricular areas. Their goal is to provide rigorous and challenging curricula in all programs while providing a safe and nurturing environment within which to learn, explore, create and think. San Marin has a robotics team that competes throughout the state, a Plus Program which is a continuation high school within San Marin, and awarding winning drama and music programs. In 2013, San Marin began a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program with 60 freshman.

Novato Charter School 940 C Street (415) 883-4254 Nikki Tausch Lloyd, Director

Novato Charter is a K-8 school in the Novato Unified School District. The curriculum is focused on educating the whole child and the school supports cultural awareness on a daily basis through its diverse literature selections and seasonal festivals. It is a Waldorf-inspired model. Received the 2009 Scholar Schools Award from the California Business for Education Excellence for high student academic achievement and closing the achievement gap.

NUSD Early Intervention Program 720 Diablo Avenue (415) 883-4254 Shakira Durham, Program Specialist. Novato Unified School District also offers an Early Intervention Program for eligible children living in Novato. The program provides early intervention services to students. These services are recommended by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team based on student need.

Hill Education Center, 720 Diablo Avenue (415) 897-7653 Kessa Early, Principal

- **NOVA** NOVA Independent Study School is NUSD's K-12 independent studies program. It facilitates standards-based individualized instruction for self-motivated and self-directed students in grades K-12 and their families. It is the only K-12 Independent Study program in Marin and attracts students from neighboring districts. 2011 graduates of NOVA are attending colleges across the country. NOVA students are currently co-enrolled in college courses in Marin and Sonoma counties. NOVA received a six-year term of accreditation with a midterm review, expiring on June 30, 2017.
- **Marin Oaks High School** Marin Oaks High School is a Model Continuation School for the state of California and was provided with a six-year clear WASC accreditation in 2011. Education Results Partnership has ranked Marin Oaks High School in the top ten in science, and U.S. History, and English in 2012 amongst comparable continuation schools in California. Marin Oaks High School provides an alternative education pathway for students that are credit deficient. The mission of Marin Oaks is to provide a small learning environment that fosters a collaborative culture, which focuses on credit recovery and academics to help build the bridge to post-secondary education.
- **Nexus** Nexus Academy was re-established in January 2012. The mission of Nexus Academy is to provide a small learning environment that focuses on building academics and fostering the interpersonal skills necessary to succeed in a traditional school setting. Students are referred to Nexus if they are truant with minimal identified behavioral problems, display disruptive behavior on campus, but no history of violence or threats of violence and in grades 7th-10th (Initially focused on 7th and 8th grade).
- **Adult Education** NUSD offers adult education programs for GED, High School Diploma, English as a Second Language (ESL), and Computer Literacy courses at the Hill Education Center. English as a Second Language (ESL) courses are also offered at Lynwood Elementary. Adult students can prepare to take the GED, complete required courses to meet the graduation requirements, and increase their knowledge of basic computer skills and the English language. For information regarding the adult education programs please contact Marcia Carey at 415-897-4288.