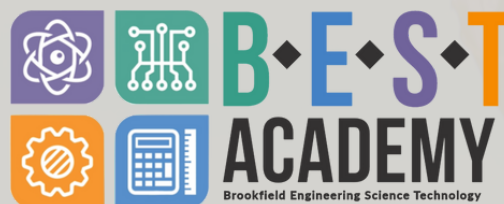


INSIDER

Stay Informed. Stay Connected. Stay Inspired.



OCTOBER 2025



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another edition of Insider!

October marks a critical time in our academic calendar as we begin our fall benchmark assessments. Over the coming weeks, students will participate in both NWEA MAP Growth and DIBELS testing. These assessments are critical tools that help us understand where each student is in their learning journey and how we can best support their growth.

Participation in benchmark testing is vital. The data we gather allows our teachers and staff to tailor instruction, identify areas where additional support may be needed, and celebrate the progress students have already made. We are excited to share and discuss the results of the NWEA and DIBELS assessments with our students and families. To check in, discuss instructional supports, and ensure that all learners are on track for success.

We appreciate your support in advance for helping your child complete these assessments. A quiet workspace, a good night's rest, and encouragement can go a long way in assisting students to do their best. Your partnership makes all the difference in creating a personalized, practical learning experience for every BEST Academy student.

With appreciation,

James Mays & Alejandro Soriano
Executive Directors
BEST Academy

OPS UPDATE

Upcoming OPS Orientations

This season is the perfect time to grow your learning by making the most of your available funds! You can request supplemental materials to prepare for testing season or tools to reinforce what you've already mastered.

Fall into new opportunities! Try learning a new instrument by joining a music class, or strengthen your academics with a tutoring program designed to support your success. Also, this October 2nd and October 16th, we're excited to host **OPS Orientation in Spanish**.

These sessions offer families an opportunity to learn more about OPS, discover ways to manage student funds, and acquire the tools needed to better support student learning. We warmly welcome you to join us! Let's make this fall a season of growth, exploration, and learning together!

BEST RESOURCE HUB

What's New at RLL?

Spooky season is upon us at the Resource Learning Library!

Please take advantage of the Halloween themed BOOKS and resources that we currently have available. Meet the zombies, ghouls and monsters that live within our extensive collection of R.L. Stine's famed Goosebumps books. Whether you want to meet our friend Slappy or take a part in Zombie Halloween, Goosebumps is a great series to bring that eerie, spooky energy while also focusing on the importance of reading in our student's lives.

Perhaps you are more of a hands-on learner, in that case, what better way to celebrate the spooky season then by checking out one of our Squishy Human Body kits. These kits allow for students to learn about human anatomy utilizing a model human body with life-like precision. Accurate depictions of the skeleton, muscles and organs make for a Definitely not for the faint of heart!

Learn more about our available resources by visiting our online library.
[Follet Destiny](#)

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



[October 2nd, 2025](#)
[Oak Canyon Nature Center](#)
[\(Anaheim Hills\)](#)



[October 2nd, 2025](#)
[OPS Parent Meeting](#)



[October 3rd, 2025](#)
[Mission San Luis Rey \(Oceanside\)](#)



[October 6th, 2025](#)
[Heritage Museum \(Orange County\)](#)



[October 6th, 2025](#)
[Vertical Hold \(Poway\)](#)



[October 7th and 8th, 2025](#)
[Internet Safety Parent Presentation](#)



[October 9th, 2025](#)
[Pennypickle's Workshop \(Temecula\)](#)



[October 10th, 2025](#)
[Youth Museum \(Chino\)](#)



[October 10th, 2025](#)
[Oma's Pumpkin Patch \(Lakeside\)](#)



[October 10th, 2025](#)
[Mission San Juan Capistrano](#)



[October 11th, 2025](#)
[Indian Canyons Jr. Ranger Expo](#)
[\(Palm Springs\)](#)



[October 14th, 2025](#)
[Environmental Nature Center](#)
[\(Newport Beach\)](#)



[October 15th, 2025](#)
[USS Midway \(San Diego\)](#)



[October 16th, 2025](#)
[Parent OPS Meeting](#)



[October 16th, 2025](#)
[Birch Aquarium \(La Jolla\)](#)



[October 17th, 2025](#)
[New Children's Museum \(San Diego\)](#)



[October 17th, 2025](#)
[SkyZone \(Chula Vista\)](#)



[October 24th, 2025](#)
[The Broad \(Los Angeles\)](#)



[October 27th, 2025](#)
[Orange County Ropes Course \(Anaheim\)](#)



[October 27th, 2025](#)
[Art at Eisenhower Park \(Seal Beach\)](#)



[October 28th, 2025](#)
[Gemological Institute of America](#)
[\(Carlsbad\)](#)



[October 31st, 2025](#)
[ComicCon \(San Diego\)](#)





THE COUNSELOR INSIGHT

Financial Aid in the Fall

October marks the beginning of the financial aid season, as the FAFSA and California Dream Act are now open for 12th-grade students to work on before submitting their financial aid applications.

For the 2025-26 school year, students can submit their financial aid applications starting in December. However, the priority deadline to submit the FAFSA or CA Dream Act is **March 2, 2026**. Both students and parents will need to create an FSA ID and password on <https://studentaid.gov/> or <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/landing> (California Dream Act Application).

Students with a Social Security number will submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), while students without a Social Security number will submit the California Dream Act. Completing a financial aid application is a graduation requirement in the state of California under Educational Code § 51225.7, and this holds true no matter which pathway a student may choose after BEST Academy.

We are excited to help students and families every step of the way in the financial aid application process and support your child's success after high school!

Sincerely,

B.E.S.T. Academy Counseling & College/Career Readiness Team



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Amanda Barrera

Amanda has been teaching for over 10 years, with experience in elementary grades and middle school math. She has always wanted to teach and is passionate about progressive education and supporting parent choice. Creative at heart, Amanda loves building systems to stay organized and designing digital resources that make learning both fun and effective. She feels grateful every day to be in a role where she can merge her creativity with her love for education. Outside of work, Amanda is a busy mom and finds peace and joy at the beach. Hawaii is her happy place, and spending time near the ocean is how she recharges. Whether she's designing something new, exploring with her family, or simply soaking up sunshine, Amanda enjoys finding balance between her work and personal life. She loves what she does and values the chance to support students and families on their learning journey.

ELD SHOWCASE

Fall into Growth with Reading

This fall, students in grades 1–2 will take the DIBELS Reading Screener—a quick check-up that highlights their reading strengths and areas where they may need support.

Kindergarten students will begin testing in January to allow time for curriculum exposure. The screener is not a diagnosis, but a tool that helps teachers and families support each child's growth. Advisory Teachers will share your child's results with you, and we're excited to partner together to help your child thrive.



LIVE CLASSES

Map Makers Mondays @ 9:15am	Equation Essentials Tuesdays @ 9:15am	ELA Owl Readers Wednesdays @ 9:15am	English 4 Thursdays @ 10:00am
Geo-History Seekers Mondays @ 9:15am	Functional Equations Tuesdays @ 9:15am	Literacy Launchpad Wednesdays @ 9:15am	Little Scientists Thursdays @ 10:00am
Algebra 1 Mondays @ 9:15am	Government & Economics Tuesdays @ 9:15am	Plot Twisters Wednesdays @ 9:15am	Science Explorers Thursdays @ 10:00am
Algebra 2 Mondays @ 9:15am	Math Fun Tuesdays @ 9:15am	Sights & Sounds Reading Wednesdays @ 9:15am	English 3A Thursdays @ 10:00am
History Detectives Mondays @ 9:15am	Math Operations Tuesdays @ 9:15am	Sounds to Stories Wednesdays @ 9:15am	Super Scientists Thursdays @ 10:00am
Physics Lab Mondays @ 9:15am	Math Stars Tuesdays @ 9:15am	Story Explorers Wednesdays @ 9:15am	World History A Thursdays @ 10:00am
Counting Clouds Mondays @ 9:15am	Heroes' Math Tuesdays @ 9:15am	Wild Readers Wednesdays @ 9:15am	
Math Explorers Tuesdays @ 9:15am	Math Made Easy Tuesdays @ 9:15am	High School Biology Wednesdays @ 10:00am	
Number Ninjas Tuesdays @ 9:15am	American History Wednesdays @ 9:15am	Geometry Gurus Wednesdays @ 10:45am	
English 2A Tuesdays @ 9:15am	Bookworms Wednesdays @ 9:15am	Blast Off To Space! Wednesdays @ 11:30am	

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Middle School Sculpture 1A Tuesdays at 10:00am	Little Artists (TK-Kinder) Every other Tuesday 10:30am-12:15pm
Art Hub (K-4th) Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 10:45am	Directed Drawing (1st-3rd) Tuesdays @ 11:30am
Pumpkin Painting Tuesdays at 11:30am	You're Cooked! 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month @ 11:30am
Drama Club for ELs: RIT Language Tuesdays @ 11:30am	Drawn From Experience (9th-12th) Wednesdays @ 10:00am
Mindful Movers (9th-12th) Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday @ 11:30am	Seasons in Story and Color (K-4th) Wednesdays @ 10:00am
You Can Draw (1st-3rd) Tuesdays @ 11:30am	Guided Drawing (TK-Kinder) Tuesdays @ 12:00pm
2D Studio Art (6th-8th) Wednesdays @ 10:00am	Science on Display (3rd-6th) Wednesdays @ 11:30am
Picture Book Enrichment (6th-12th) Wednesdays @ 2:30pm	Digital Art & Design (6th-8th) Thursdays @ 10:00am
The Drawing Studio Every other Thursday @ 10:45am	Pop Music in America (9th-12th) Thursdays @ 10:45am
Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs (3rd-5th) Tuesdays @ 11:00am	Speak Up! (9th-12th) Every other Tuesday @ 11:30am
3D Design & Coding (1st-6th) Fridays @ 10:00am	CodeMonkey Every other Wednesday @ 11:30am
Learn to Draw (2nd-4th) Thursdays @ 11:30am	History of Classical Music (9th-12th) 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 11:30am
Yoga (6th-8th) Second Wednesday of the month @ 11:30am	History of Opera (9th-12th) Third Thursday of the month @ 11:30am
Spanish for Beginners (TK-5th) Third Wednesday of the month @ 11:30am	Intro to Journaling (6th-12th) Every other Tuesday of the month @ 11:30am