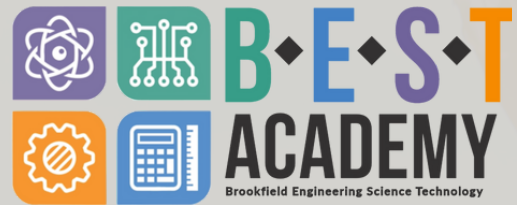


INSIDER

Stay Informed. Stay Connected. Stay Inspired.



NOVEMBER 2025



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another edition of Insider!

Dear BEST Academy Families,

As we move through November, a month often centered around gratitude and reflection, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks to our incredible community. We are especially grateful for the strong participation in our fall benchmark assessments, including NWEA and DIBELS. The data gathered through these tools is already helping us tailor instruction and provide targeted support to every student.

We are thankful for our dedicated teachers who use this information to personalize learning, our families who continue to support education at home, and our students' curiosity and determination. The partnership between home and school is what makes BEST Academy a charter to learn and grow.

Thank you for your continued trust and commitment. We look forward to building on this momentum as we move into the winter months.

With gratitude,

James Mays & Alejandro Soriano

Executive Directors

B.E.S.T. Academy

OPS UPDATE

Harvesting Growth and Giving Thanks

As the school year moves forward, it's time to start harvesting the fruits of your hard work! You've already invested time and effort in studying, testing, and learning. Now, take a moment to appreciate how far you've come.

Keep nurturing your talents and passions! Maybe that means picking up a new instrument, exploring a great book, or discovering a new hobby. Remember to use your vendor funds intentionally throughout the year to support your growth, enrich your learning, and fuel your interests. Your funds can be used for materials or vendor services. Make the most of these opportunities!

This season, we give thanks for your dedication and perseverance. Keep the momentum going, as your hard work today is planting the seeds for tomorrow's success.

BEST RESOURCE HUB

What's New at RLL?

We have plenty of reasons to be grateful at the RLL and here at BEST Academy. We are beyond grateful to have the opportunity to provide valuable learning resources for students and families as the needs arise.

Keeping in line with the theme of the month, we have plenty of library items that showcase the value of the month: gratefulness. We have numerous books centered around Thanksgiving like, "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving," "Taylor the Thankful Turkey," or "Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving." This holiday, read with your students to learn and grow their vocabulary in a fun and communal way.

Veterans' Day gives us another reason to be grateful this month. Celebrate the veterans in your community by checking out items like, "A Life of Service: The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth," "On the Horizon: World War II Reflections," or "Who Were the Tuskegee Airmen."

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

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



[November 3rd, 2025](#)
[College Essay Workshop](#)



[November 3rd, 2025](#)
[Get Air \(Poway\)](#)



[November 3rd, 2025](#)
[Museum of Art \(San Diego\)](#)



[November 4th, 2025](#)
[English Learner Advisory Committee Meeting](#)



[November 5th, 2025](#)
[Financial Aid Application Workshop](#)



[November 7th, 2025](#)
[Color Me Mine \(Tustin\)](#)



[November 7th, 2025](#)
[Museum of Illusions \(San Diego\)](#)



[November 7th, 2025](#)
[Photography Lesson and Hike at Carbon Regional Park](#)



[November 7th, 2025](#)
[Museum of Photographic Arts \(San Diego\)](#)



[November 7th, 2025](#)
[Environmental Nature Center \(Newport Beach\)](#)



[November 7th, 2025](#)
[Museum of Making Music \(Carlsbad\)](#)



[November 10th, 2025](#)
[Coffee with the Counselor](#)



[November 10th, 2025](#)
[Lil' Chef School \(Irvine\)](#)



[November 12th, 2025](#)
[San Diego Zoo](#)



[November 14th, 2025](#)
[Gem and Mineral Society \(Fallbrook\)](#)



[November 14th, 2025](#)
[Cowles Mountain Hike \(San Diego\)](#)



[November 14th, 2025](#)
[College of the Desert Campus Tour](#)



[November 14th, 2025](#)
[Art at Eisenhower Park \(Seal Beach\)](#)



[November 19th, 2025](#)
[San Diego State University Tour](#)



[November 21st, 2025](#)
[Water Treatment Plant \(Orange County\)](#)



[November 21st, 2025](#)
[Aerial Tramway \(Palm Springs\)](#)



[November 21st, 2025](#)
[Pretend City Children's Museum \(Irvine\)](#)



[November 21st, 2025](#)
[The Nutcracker \(Irvine\)](#)





THE COUNSELOR INSIGHT

Financial Aid in the Fall

As we enter the month of November, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our high school team, who have supported our senior students during this busy college and financial aid application season. Students and families feel your genuine care, and you are helping make dreams come true by showing them that the sky is the limit when it comes to life after high school.

This month marks the deadline for submitting applications to the University of California and California State University for first-year freshmen. Although the application deadline for most UC and CSU campuses is December 1, 2025, students are encouraged to submit their applications before Thanksgiving Break to allow for adequate time for review by the Counseling Department.

They will also be launching their applications on the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform to streamline the application process.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) are also available for students to apply, and each senior will need to complete a financial aid application in accordance with Education Code. Workshops and individual meetings will be provided throughout November in order to guide students and families in submitting these important applications.

Thank you again for your continued support and encouragement of our students. Together, we are working to make their postsecondary goals become a reality.

Sincerely,

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

STUDENT ACTIVITIES UPDATE

On October 22, we hosted a San Diego Gulls Family Night, where every attendee received a Gulls hat and had the incredible opportunity to participate in the High-Five Tunnel—greeting players as they walked off the ice during the first intermission.

[View photos from the event here!](#)

Looking ahead, we're planning two Park Days designed to help students connect and celebrate the season together:

- San Diego Park Day – Friday, November 21 (Location and time TBD)
 - Open to TK–5th grade students and their families

These events will be opportunities for families to socialize, share gratitude, and celebrate the season of giving thanks. We'll have snacks, drinks, and plenty of fun activities set up for everyone to enjoy, including soccer, badminton, football, dodgeball, and a Thanksgiving-themed scavenger hunt with a special prize!

It's a great chance to spend time outdoors, connect with other BEST families, and celebrate all that we're thankful for this fall.

ELD SHOWCASE

Harvesting Growth Through Learning

This season, we celebrate more than learning. We celebrate the growth that happens when families, students, and teachers work together. Teachers are using Reading Screener DIBELS 8th results to better understand each student's reading skills and plan the right support.

At home, simple gratitude activities can strengthen language and reading development:

- Talk about what you are thankful for using complete sentences to build vocabulary.
- Read together and ask questions about characters who show kindness to boost comprehension.
- Write short thank you notes or gratitude lists to support writing skills.

Thank you for partnering with us to nurture strong readers and grateful hearts. Together, we help every child grow with confidence and joy.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES



Middle School Sculpture 1A
Tuesdays @ 10:00am



Art Hub (K-4th)
Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 10:45am



History of Classical Music (9th-12th)
Every 3rd Tuesday @ 11:30am



You're Cooked!
Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month @ 11:30am



Drama Club for ELs: RIT Language
Tuesdays @ 11:30am



Mindful Movers (9th-12th)
Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday @ 11:30am



You Can Draw (1st-3rd)
Tuesdays @ 11:30am



Guided Drawing (TK-Kinder)
Tuesdays @ 12:00pm



2D Studio Art (6th-8th)
Wednesdays @ 10:00am



CodeMonkey
Every other Wednesday @ 11:30am



Science on Display (3rd-6th)
Wednesdays @ 11:30am



Picture Book Enrichment (6th-12th)
Wednesdays @ 2:30pm



Digital Art & Design (6th-8th)
Thursdays @ 10:00am



History of Opera (9th-12th)
Every 3rd Thursday @ 11:30am



Little Artists (TK-Kinder)
Every other Tuesday @ 10:30am



Part 1: Intro to Journaling (6th-12th)
Every other Tuesday @ 11:30am



Seasons in Story and Color (K-4th)
Tuesdays @ 11:30am



Drawn From Experience (9th-12th)
Tuesdays @ 11:30am



3D Design & Coding (1st-6th)
Fridays @ 10:00am



Learn to Draw (2nd-4th)
Thursdays @ 11:30am



The Drawing Studio
Every other Thursday @ 10:45am



Pop Music in America (9th-12th)
Thursdays @ 10:45am



Art in Motion (2nd-4th)
Every other Tuesday @ 10:45am



Yoga (6th-8th)
Second Wednesday of the month @ 11:30am



Spanish for Beginners (TK-5th)
Third Wednesday of the month @ 11:30am

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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



Literary 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

DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Staff Appreciation

We want to take a moment to express our deep gratitude for each of you. We are so proud of the professionalism, care, and integrity you all bring to your work every day. You all consistently advocate for the needs of your students and approach every situation with a sincere desire to do what's right.

We also want to recognize our incredible enrollment office and resource library teams for their exceptional attention to detail and passion for their work—your efforts make everything we do possible. Thank you all for your unwavering dedication.

Joel Manwarren, Natalie Maldonado, and Daniel Crook
B.E.S.T. Academy Directors



FIELD TRIPS



Our BEST Academy families visited Mission San Juan Capistrano in October.



Oma's Pumpkin Patch in Lakeside played host to us in celebration of the Fall season!



We took to the New Children's Museum to bring our families a truly unique experience.



We had a special friend join us at the Ecovivarium in Escondido!



Our future pilots visited March Air Field Museum in Riverside to fly a little closer to their dreams.



The ropes course in Orange County gave our students an opportunity to monkey around!

COMMUNITY KAHOOTTS

Please join us in welcoming our monthly Community Kahoots to our newsletter! Each month we will have three Kahoots that are divided by grade level. We will have elementary, middle school, and high school level Kahoots that revolve around the theme of the month. Join in on the fun by scanning the QR codes below!

K-6th Kahoot



7th-8th Kahoot



9th-12th Kahoot



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