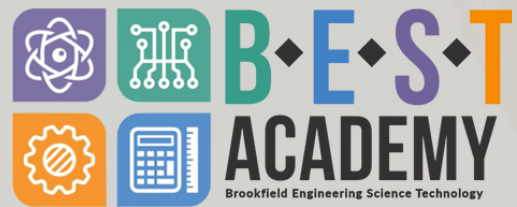


INSIDER

Stay Informed. Stay Connected. Stay Inspired.



SEPTEMBER 2025

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another year of Insider!

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at BEST Academy! We are filled with excitement and anticipation as we begin another chapter of learning, growth, and achievement. Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, we are honored to have your family as part of our community.

A new school year brings with it fresh opportunities and renewed commitment to our mission of delivering a high-quality, personalized education. Our dedicated team of teachers and staff has been working hard to prepare engaging lessons, enriching programs, and meaningful support to ensure every student feels empowered to succeed.

As Executive Directors, we are especially enthusiastic about the new initiatives and enhancements we have planned for the year ahead. From academic innovations to expanded enrichment options, we remain focused on helping students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

We encourage you to stay connected and involved throughout the year. Communication between families and our school is vital to a successful and rewarding educational experience, and we are here to partner with you every step of the way.

Here's to a strong and inspiring start to the 2025-2026 school year!

Warm regards,

James Mays & Alex Soriano
Executive Directors
BEST Academy

BEST RESOURCE HUB

Technology Distributions

First and foremost, everyone at the Resource Learning Library would like to welcome students and families back for another exciting school year here at B.E.S.T. Academy!

To begin the school year we are aware of our numerous students who will be needing technology (Chromebooks and iPads) to facilitate access to their learning materials. To assist with this we will be hosting Technology Distribution Dates in the San Diego, Orange, and Riverside counties within the next couple of weeks.

San Diego County Technology Distributions:

- August 27, 2025 (9am-3pm) (3003 Coronado Ave, San Diego, CA 92154)
- August 29, 2025 (9:30am-3:30pm) (800 National City Blvd, National City, CA 91950)
- September 2, 2025 (11:30am-5:30pm) (3003 Coronado Ave, San Diego, CA 92154)
- September 3, 2025 (9am-3pm) (3003 Coronado Ave, San Diego, CA 92154)
- September 5, 2025 (9:30am-3pm) (800 National City Blvd, National City, CA 91950)

Orange County Technology Distributions:

- Tuesday, September 2, 2025 (11:30am-6pm) (1600 E 1st St, Santa Ana, CA 92701)
- Wednesday, September 3, 2025 (8:30am-2pm) (1600 E 1st St, Santa Ana, CA 92701)

Riverside County Technology Distributions:

- September 4, 2025 (10am-3pm) (30600 Pauba Rd, Temecula, CA 92592)

For students at learning centers like One Percent, DOL, HHH, Seashore, Guiding Our Days, and The Village you all will have your independent distributions that will be arranged by your teachers. Please standby for those dates.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



September 10, 2025
[ParentSquare Workshop](#)



September 12, 2025
[Discovery Cube in Orange County](#)



September 12, 2025
[San Diego Botanical Garden](#)



September 15, 2025
[Get Air in Poway](#)



September 16, 2025
[Birch Aquarium in La Jolla](#)



September 22, 2025
[Art at Eisenhower Park in Seal Beach](#)



September 30, 2025
[English Learner Advisory Committee \(ELAC\) Meeting](#)



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



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



October 6, 2025
[Mission San Juan Capistrano](#)



October 13, 2025
[SkyZone in Chula Vista](#)



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



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





THE COUNSELOR INSIGHT

Introducing our new Counselor!

Hello B.E.S.T. Academy!

My name is Ms. Rachel, and I am so excited to serve as your high school counselor this year. I was born and raised in Riverside, California, and I graduated from UC San Diego with a degree in Education Sciences in Spring 2021 (Go Tritons!). I didn't realize I wanted to become a school counselor until my final year of undergraduate studies at UCSD. I eventually realized I wanted to work in education so I could serve the next generation in a rewarding and meaningful way.

In 2018, I took a Partners in Learning course at UCSD, where I served as an elementary school tutor and mentored youth about college and career pathways after high school. This experience, combined with my own journey through high school and undergrad, would pave the way for me to further my education and become a school counselor.

Fast forward to 2023, I graduated from the University of Redlands with a Master of Education in School and College Counseling with a Pupil Personnel Services Credential. For the past two years, I worked as a high school counselor at a small charter school in the Bay Area, but I am thrilled to return home to SoCal to serve the community I grew up in. I was drawn to B.E.S.T. Academy as we empower students to personalize their own academic journey through opportunities such as CTE pathways, field trips, and early college credit.

In my spare time, I enjoy taking walks in nature, trying new coffee & boba shops, and playing video games on my laptop. I look forward to supporting your high school journey; this year is going to be the BEST!

Contact your counselor at: counselors@bestacademycs.com

OPS UPDATE

OPS Parent Meetings

Welcome back, BEST Families! We're excited to start another amazing school year with you. To ensure a smooth start, we want to make sure you're confident using OPS (Online Purchasing System), our platform for managing student funds. To help you get started, we invite you to join our OPS Parent Meetings, where you'll learn how to navigate the Parent Portal, manage and track student funds, and discover ways students can use their funds to enrich their learning experience.

Meeting Dates:

- September 4th & 18th: 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM
- September 30th: 5:00 PM – 5:45 PM

Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5738681571>

Please mark your calendars! You won't want to miss these important sessions!

We can't wait to see all the wonderful ways students will use their funds for learning, activities, and adventures this year. Join us and learn the tools to help your student thrive! See you there!

ELD SHOWCASE

ELD Department Update

We are excited to begin the 2025–26 school year by welcoming and supporting our English learners! This month, our focus is on the Initial ELPAC assessments, which play a key role in identifying students who may need language support. Assessments are held within the first 30 days of enrollment, and families will be contacted if their student is eligible to take the Initial ELPAC. Our team is committed to making academics accessible to all students and helping them thrive from the very start of the year.

STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE

Assembly Bill 84 Update

California Assembly Bill 84 (AB 84) still poses a serious threat to the flexibility and personalized learning options that charter schools like BEST Academy offer. If passed, this legislation would impose excessive, one-size-fits-all regulations on charter schools, limiting our ability to innovate, customize curricula, and support students in non-classroom-based environments. AB 84 would significantly reduce educational choice for families and undermine the very principles that make independent study and homeschool-friendly charter schools successful.

There is still time to take action and be heard. Contact your state legislators and let them know you oppose AB 84. Your voice matters—lawmakers need to hear from families who value the freedom to choose the educational path that works best for their children. Visit: <https://www.stopab84.com> to learn more about AB 84 and to send a message directly to your elected representatives.

Together, we can protect educational choice and ensure that innovative charter schools like BEST Academy continue to thrive.