

Outstanding Chapter: Buena Park FFA



Juniors and seniors in our Ag Economics class. Every month we take pictures of our students excelling in the three areas: FFA, Academics and SAEs. We recognize them by posting their pictures up on a Success wall in the classroom.



Vegetable judging team and BIG team participating at the San Diego Section Field Day. Freshman Frank Rodriguez received a high Individual award in the BIG contest.



Fullerton Joint Union High School District – Greenhand Conference
Students learned about California agriculture, got to make ice cream from scratch, participated in judging contests and tour our local agricultural university, Cal Poly Pomona.

The community of Buena Park is home to the “Entertainment Zone” with such exciting attractions as Knott’s Berry Farm, Medieval Times, Ripley’s Believe It or Not!, and the Pirates Dinner Adventure. Buena Park High School is located on the farthest north east corner of Buena Park; across the street is the city of Fullerton. If you looked around my surrounding community you would not witness any form of agriculture for miles. Although North Orange County (Buena Park) was once covered in orange groves, we are lucky to still see a few backyard farming operations and some horse communities. Despite this, the agriculture programs in this

district continue to thrive, supported by school site and district administration, parents and community members. Buena Park is a high school of approximately 2,000 students of which 162 are enrolled in agriculture classes.

Over the last three years the Buena Park agriculture program has undergone a complete transformation. We began with no facilities to work animals, three-and-a-half acres of unused, weed infested farm land, a poultry and rabbit barn that was being used for trash disposal, no landscaping and very minimal student opportunities in regards to Supervised Agriculture

Experiences (SAEs), leadership or academics. The facility is four-and-a-half acres and includes a barn with cement flooring and a roof for all large livestock projects. There are enough pens to house approximately 100 market animals. The students and I have put in three show and exercise arenas for steers, sheep/goats and pigs, six pens on dirt with weather coverings for any animals showing signs of stiffness from being on cement, and new shade cloth throughout the areas of the barn with no roof. We planted 350 fruit trees (avocado, stone, citrus and deciduous) all on micro-sprinkler irrigation. Our garden plot area now has raised beds with a new sprinkler irrigation system. Lastly,

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Buena Park FFA, Continued



Officer Team
2009-2010.



Esteban Ramos and Alexis Flores "Learn by Doing" using a microscope to get a better look at onion cells in Agriculture Biology.

"Hands on" Putting science to work – students in Ag earth science are making a volcano.



Made for Excellence and Advanced Leadership Academy Conference Participants.

the poultry and rabbit facility has been refurbished inside and out and now houses 200 laying hens.

For beautification and program pride a community member helped us landscape our front lawn areas. In addition we put in a six-foot waterfall and a sign to advertise the agriculture program to the community. The Buena Park High School agriculture program has greatly improved its academic rigor. Three years ago it was solely an elective program. At this time students can take Ag Earth Science, Ag Biology, Ag Economics, Veterinary Science, Ornamental Horticulture (OH), and The Art and History of Floral Design. The program has

transitioned into a highly productive, comprehensive agriculture program ensuring that every student maintains an SAE, experiences leadership opportunities and excels at academics. Today's facility looks drastically improved; students and community members are buying into the program and our numbers continue to grow.

At Buena Park there is a wide range of SAEs including: poultry, swine, beef, sheep, small animal, and fruit production as well as agriculture education, agriculture services, turf grass management, landscape and farm improvement. At any given time I have at least five students employed with pet

stores and on internships at local veterinary clinics for work-based learning opportunities. In addition, we work closely with California Polytechnic University, Pomona to do cooperative education with all students involved in our Horticulture Pathway. Our program offers a multitude of SAE opportunities right on our school farm. In 2009 we added a student-run farm store (selling all items produced on the farm), created a recruitment DVD through agriculture communications and education, and created a floral sales business on our campus.

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Buena Park FFA, Continued



Laura Villegas – Here is Laura with two market calves, Milo and Logan. She is exercising them in preparation for the Los Angeles County Fair.

Ornamental Horticulture –
A class offered to give students career options in horticulture and hands-on experience to gain valuable horticulture skills. Edilena Reyes is transplanting plugs from trays to pots.



Adeliya Granillo – Preparing carnation wraps to sell at lunch to BPHS students. Adeliya developed a project in Floriculture for her SAE. She sells wraps at lunch and prepares bud vases to teachers weekly.



Applying Skills – Karina Gomez is preparing a slide of an elodea leaf.

At the Buena Park FFA chapter "let's try everything" is the student motto. Students are actively involved as FFA student leaders while they participate in sports, other campus clubs and even the Associated Student Body (ASB) campus student government organization. Our chapter participates in speaking contests such as Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Creed, Extemp, Prepared, and Job Interview and parliamentary procedure team. Our chapter officers pride themselves on motivating members to get involved, and success is eminent in the large numbers we take to all leadership conferences from section to state. Student success throughout the FFA organization has reached an all-time high during the last three years with two state

proficiency finalists, one state scholarship finalist, a fifth-place Ag Sales Team at state finals, a state choir singer, a state conference committee chair, a region finalist in extemporaneous and creed speaking, regional officer candidates, and 23 State Degrees.

Our success over the last three years and as we look into the future is due in large part to our school and district administration, our community members, parents, and the students. The students got excited about the vision of a successful Buena Park High School Agriculture Program and everyone joined in to help make it possible! We are thankful and honored for our 2009 award recognition and we are looking forward to continued student success through academics, SAEs and Leadership.