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BOARD OF EDUCATION: Donald L. Bridge • Andrew Cruz • Jonathan E. Monroe • James Na • Sonja Shaw • SUPERINTENDENT: Norm Enfield, Ed.D.

## PRESS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Chino Valley USD Junior High School Recognized as a 2024 CA Distinguished School**

*Woodcrest Junior High School is one of only three awardees in San Bernardino County to receive the highest educational award in California.*

Chino, CA – Woodcrest Junior High School (JHS) in Ontario is one of 293 schools throughout the state recognized under the 2024 California Distinguished Schools Award Program. As a first time recipient, Woodcrest JHS is the only junior high school in San Bernardino County to receive the award this year.

Using state indicators specified on the California School State Dashboard, the California Department of Education (CDE), honored school sites identified as closing the achievement gap among students or achieving exceptional student performance. Specific criteria analyzed through the Dashboard include assessment results, chronic absenteeism, suspension rates, and socioeconomic data.

As an award recipient for closing the achievement gap, Woodcrest JHS, whose enrollment includes at least 40 percent of its students being identified as socioeconomically disadvantaged youths, has demonstrated exemplary overall performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and math and achieved accelerated academic growth for one or more historically underserved student groups.

Originally established in 1985, the California Distinguished Schools Program has celebrated the exceptional efforts of schools, districts, teachers, and classified staff for their innovation, talent, and success in supporting students. As noted in the CDE's press release dated February 29, 2024, the exceptional middle and high schools recognized this year are illustrative of the persistence and promise of California's students, educators, and schools.

"Nationally, the COVID years had a devastating effect on the educational system and the young scholars that had to navigate their coursework online," CVUSD Superintendent Norm Enfield, Ed.D., shared. "The fact that CVUSD students and staff continue to merit awards and recognitions for their outstanding performance is testament to the dedication of our staff and the perservance of our students. It's moments like this that show why Chino Valley Unified School District is one of the best performing districts in our region and the state."

Principal Ashley Barnett and her team will be honored on May 3, 2024, during the California School Recognition Program Awards Ceremony at the Disland Hotel in Anaheim, CA.

For more information regarding the California Distinguished Schools Award Program, please visit <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/>

### ***About Chino Valley Unified School District:***

Founded in 1860, Chino Valley Unified School District serves approximately 26,000 students across 35 schools within the Chino Valley and South Ontario areas. Home to 18 California Distinguished schools,

students receive a rigorous, 21st century education in preparation for college and career. Thriving performing arts and athletic programs, nationally recognized marching bands and engaging parent-school partnerships distinguish Chino Valley Unified School District as one of the best school districts in California. For more information about Chino Valley Unified School district, please visit [www.chino.k12.ca.us](http://www.chino.k12.ca.us).

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