

Preparing Students for College and the Workforce

A Message From Our Superintendent

Dear Parents and Community Members,

It is an exciting time at Orange Unified School District. We are starting to develop plans to upgrade aging classrooms, science labs and school facilities at each of our four comprehensive high schools: Canyon, El Modena, Villa Park and Orange. Each of these schools is working with an architectural firm to identify urgent needs and opportunities for improvement.



By utilizing state facility funding programs and other creative sources, we've managed to upgrade five of our elementary schools and two middle schools. Unfortunately, there are no more funds available to continue the upgrades and our aging high schools have significant needs. In fact, recent professional engineering assessments indicate that just basic building and infrastructure improvements at our high schools will cost approximately \$200 million. Moreover, this amount could grow to over \$270 million in ten years as the problems grow increasingly worse and construction costs escalate. In other words: We must act now to keep our students safe and keep costs under control.

Even our newest high school, Canyon, is over 40 years old. It needs extensive plumbing and electrical upgrades; earthquake safety and campus security upgrades; and improved access for students with disabilities. The problems at our oldest high school, 60-year-old Orange High, are even more extensive and urgent. In addition to basic upgrades needed to make each of our four high schools safe and functional, the outdated science labs and classroom technology make it difficult for our teachers to deliver a modern curriculum and prepare students for college and a demanding job market. We must promote our schools to a level of excellence that our students and community demand and deserve.

For years, our maintenance staff has done their best to keep our aging facilities functional. However, the facility needs today are greater than simple maintenance. Our high schools are due for improvements that will allow them to serve another generation of students. Unfortunately, the State of California does not provide school districts with the funding needed to keep up with basic building code changes, let alone the upgrades necessary to create a 21st Century learning environment.

Community input throughout this process is essential and your opinions are important. Please complete and return the attached survey ranking your facility modernization priorities. You may also complete the survey online at www.orangeusd.org/facilities/survey.

Thank you in advance for your time and input. Together we will ensure that our amazing teachers and students have the safe, modern campus facilities, classrooms and science labs needed for a high-quality education.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Christensen
Superintendent



Canyon High School



El Modena High School



Orange High School



Villa Park High School



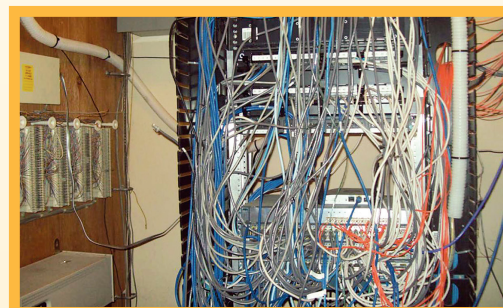
Plumbing and bathroom fixtures need to be replaced



Science labs are outdated



60-year-old facilities need basic safety improvements



Wiring must be upgraded to support modern technology

Today's high school graduates need to be prepared to compete in a global economy.

While the quality of instruction in our schools is excellent, it is limited by the lack of modern, functioning facilities.

Our high schools are deteriorating and in desperate need of repair.

We need to modernize our high schools to meet structural and educational standards to bring our facilities into the 21st Century.

The District is in the process of developing a facility master plan for each comprehensive high school.

Community input is **ESSENTIAL** as we plan for 21st Century high school facility improvements.

Please help by completing the attached SURVEY. The survey can also be found online and in Spanish at www.orangeusd.org/facilities/survey

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1401 N HANDY ST
ORANGE CA 92867-4434

Si desea una copia de este folleto en español, por favor llame al (714) 628-4000.