

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Banning Unified School District**



Volume 1, Issue 1

Annual 2024 – 2025



**We Are Banning**



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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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# Superintendent

## "We Are Banning"



**Terrence Davis**  
*Superintendent*

As we continue on another exciting school year, I am thrilled to share our theme, **"We Are Banning."** This theme represents the heart of who we are as a District, a community united in our

commitment to the success of every student. It serves as a reminder that it takes all of us students, staff, families, and community members to create an environment where our learners can thrive.



**"We Are Banning"** is more than a statement; it's a call to action. Each of us plays a vital role in shaping the future. Our teachers and staff dedicate their time and talents to nurturing and educating young minds. Our families provide the encouragement and support that inspire students

to reach their potential. Our community partners enhance learning opportunities through their unwavering support. Together, we are stronger.

This year, let's focus on collaboration, communication, and connection. Whether it's a student mastering a new skill, a teacher innovating in the classroom, or a community member lending a hand, every success reflects the collective effort of the Banning Unified School District.

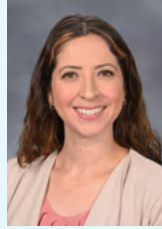
Let's continue working hand-in-hand to ensure every student is prepared for a bright future. Together, **We Are Banning.**



## Board of Trustees



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As your Board of Trustees, we are honored to serve the students, staff, and families of Banning Unified School District. Our work is grounded in our shared **Mission, Vision, District-Wide Goals, and Board Priorities**, which guide our efforts to provide the best educational experience for all.

### Mission:

We are a diverse community that collaborates to develop responsible, respectful, and prepared students who achieve their full potential.

### Vision:

We are committed to preparing, inspiring, and educating every student for success in school and beyond.

### District-Wide Goals:

- 1. Accelerate Student Achievement**  
By fostering innovation and ensuring equity, we aim to provide every student with the tools they need to succeed.
- 2. Maintain Fiscal Responsibility and Long-Term Financial Viability**  
Responsible stewardship of resources ensures sustainability and growth.
- 3. Maintain Effective Communication and Accountability of All Systems**  
Transparency and collaboration are essential for building trust and ensuring success across the District.

### Board Priorities:

- 1. Align District Resources to Improve Student Achievement**  
By allocating resources strategically, we aim to ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.
- 2. Improve Health, Safety, and Well-Being for Students and Staff**  
A safe and supportive environment is essential for learning and growth.
- 3. Further a Climate of Open, Honest, Two-Way Communication**  
Accountability and transparency are critical for fostering trust and collaboration across the District.

Together, these guiding principles reflect our commitment to ensuring every student achieves their full potential. We invite you to join us in embracing our theme for the year, "We Are Banning," as we work together to build a brighter future for all.

## School News

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# Florida Street *Discovery Center*

671 N. Florida St., Banning, CA 92220 • 951/849-2930 • <https://floridastreet.banning.k12.ca.us/o/floridastreet>



**Colette Burgess**  
*Principal*

## Building Foundations, Strengthening Community

At Florida Street Discovery Center, **“We Are Banning”** is more than a theme, it’s a reflection of our commitment to our students, families, and the entire community. This year, we are thrilled to

celebrate the expansion of our Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program, a project that embodies our shared mission of preparing every student for a successful future.

The new facilities at our site, including modern classrooms, an engaging play structure, and a dedicated building, provide the perfect environment for our youngest learners to explore, grow, and build the skills they need for lifelong learning. With the addition of a new grade level, welcoming children as young as three years old, we are laying the foundation for academic and social success at an even earlier age.



This expansion isn’t just about new buildings, it’s about strengthening our connection to the community. From the partnerships that made this project possible to the parents who entrust us with their children’s education, every aspect reflects the collaborative spirit of **“We Are Banning.”** Together, we are creating opportunities that will benefit our students for years to come.

As principal, I am incredibly proud of what we’ve achieved and even more excited about what lies ahead. The dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the support of our families and community partners inspire us daily. At Florida Street Discovery Center, we are building more than classrooms; we are building a stronger, more unified Banning.

Together, **“We Are Banning.”**



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# Florida Street *Discovery Center*

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# Cabazon *Elementary School*

50575 Carmen Ave., Cabazon, CA 92230 • 951/922-0252 • <https://cabazon.banning.k12.ca.us/o/cabazon>



**Dr. Ricky Anderson**  
*Principal*

## A DINO-mite Year Ahead

At Cabazon Elementary School, we embrace the spirit of **“We Are Banning”** by fostering a positive, inclusive environment where every student can thrive. As we embark on a new school year, we are excited to build on the incredible growth our students demonstrated last year and continue to prepare them for a bright future.

This year, our focus remains on key initiatives such as **PBIS** (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) and **AVID** (Advancement Via Individual Determination). Through these programs, we promote positive behavior and academic achievement while

encouraging students to think about their futures beyond elementary school. By emphasizing college and career readiness, we are helping students develop the skills, confidence, and determination they need to succeed.

At Cabazon, we believe that success comes from working together as a community. Parents and families are integral to this journey, and we value your support and partnership in creating an environment where students feel empowered to reach their full potential.

With the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the collaboration of our families, we are ready to make this school year one of growth, achievement, and connection. Together, **“We Are Banning,”** and together, we are shaping the leaders of tomorrow.



# Central *Elementary School*

295 N. San Geronio Ave., Banning, CA 92220 • 951/922-0264 • <https://central.banning.k12.ca.us/o/central>



**Marcia  
Cole-Fijabi**  
*Principal*

## Empowering Students through Dual Immersion and Community

At Central Elementary School, we are proud to be the largest elementary school in Banning Unified School District and to host the renowned **Dual Immersion Program**, a cornerstone of our commitment to academic excellence and cultural enrichment. As part of the “**We Are Banning**” theme, we work tirelessly to ensure every student feels valued, empowered, and celebrated.

Established in 1998, Central’s **Dual Immersion Program** was the first of its kind in Riverside County. This innovative **90/10** model provides students the opportunity to become **bilingual, bi-literate, and bi-cultural** in Spanish and English. Our classrooms are vibrant with collaboration and creativity, as students master both languages while developing a deep appreciation for cultural diversity.

The goals of the program extend beyond language proficiency. We aim for all students to achieve academic

excellence, develop positive cross-cultural attitudes, and graduate with the prestigious **California Seal of Biliteracy**. This journey begins in TK with an emphasis on Spanish and gradually incorporates English as students progress, ensuring a strong foundation in both languages.

Beyond academics, Central fosters a caring, inclusive environment where student success is celebrated. From **ROCK** assemblies to monthly **Perfect Attendance awards** and **Student of the Month luncheons**, we recognize and honor hard work, effort, and growth. Our teachers challenge students to become critical thinkers and problem solvers, integrating technology and high standards into engaging, creative lessons.

We are proud to partner with families to nurture each child’s sense of responsibility, love for learning, and connection to the community. Together, we create a school where cultural diversity is valued, and every student reaches their fullest potential.

At Central Elementary School, we live the spirit of “We Are Banning” every day, striving to provide a rich, dynamic learning environment that prepares our students for a bright future.



# Hemmerling *Elementary School*

1928 W. Nicolet St., Banning, CA 92220 • 951/922-0254 • <https://hemmerling.banning.k12.ca.us/o/hemmerling>



**Dr. Ileana Gutierrez**  
Principal

## Rewarding Literacy and Positive Behavior

At Hemmerling Elementary School, we live out the theme “**We Are Banning**” by fostering a culture that values literacy and celebrates positive behavior. This year, we are thrilled to announce two

remarkable accomplishments: the debut of our **new book vending machine** and our recognition as a **PBIS Gold Implementation Award** recipient.

Our book vending machine, unveiled with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on **October 18, 2024**, has already captured the excitement of our students and community. This creative resource allows students to earn tokens through academic achievements, positive behavior, and participation in reading programs, which they can redeem for books. By making literacy fun and rewarding, we are inspiring a lifelong love for reading and reinforcing the values of hard work and responsibility.



This project was made possible by our incredible staff and the support of the **Banning Teachers Association**, who helped us win this vending machine through a drawing. Their dedication ensures our students have access to opportunities that foster growth and success.

In addition to our literacy initiatives, we are proud to have received the **PBIS Gold Implementation Award**. This recognition reflects our commitment to creating a positive, supportive school environment where students feel valued and empowered to succeed. By emphasizing positive behavioral interventions and supports, we are equipping our students with the tools they need to thrive academically and socially.

At Hemmerling Elementary, every success reflects the collective effort of our students, staff, families, and community partners. Together, we are shaping a brighter future, one book and one positive choice at a time. “**We Are Banning**,” and we couldn’t be prouder to carry this theme forward in all that we do.



# Hoffer *Elementary School*

1115 E. Hoffer St., Banning, CA 92220 • 951/922-0257 • <https://hoffer.banning.k12.ca.us/o/hoffer>



**Margarita  
Ramirez**  
*Principal*

## Growing Together

At Hoffer Elementary School, the theme **“We Are Banning”** resonates deeply with our mission to create a community where every student, family, and staff member feels connected and inspired. Just as a ripple begins with a single drop, our collective commitment and dedication create waves of positive change within our school and the Banning community.

This year, we are focused on fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Together, we aim to spark a love of learning in every child, igniting the flame of curiosity, empathy, and determination that will guide them through life.

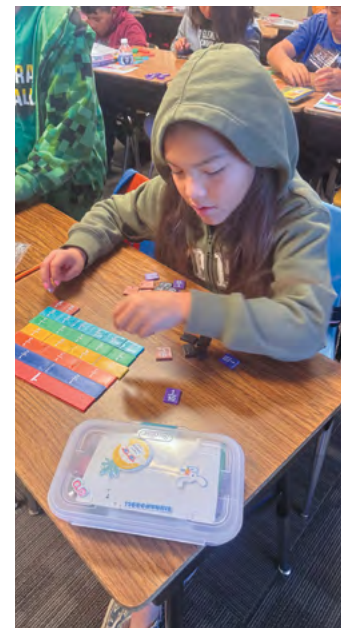
Our families play a pivotal role in bringing the **“We Are Banning”** theme to life at Hoffer Elementary.

Your involvement—whether by supporting your child’s educational journey, volunteering at school events, or simply encouraging their efforts—empowers our students to excel and grow as well-rounded individuals.

As we progress through the school year, we are excited to create meaningful experiences and memories for our students. From engaging lessons in the classroom to schoolwide events that build connections, everything we do is centered on the belief that every student can achieve greatness when supported by a community that cares.

I am truly honored to serve as the Principal of Hoffer Elementary School and to work with such a dedicated and compassionate community of families, staff, and students. Together, we will continue to nurture an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered to strive for excellence.

Let’s make this school year unforgettable. Together, **“We Are Banning,”** and together, we will create a brighter future for all.



# Nicolet *Middle School*

101 E. Nicolet St., Banning, CA 92220 • 951/922-0280 • <https://nicolet.banning.k12.ca.us/o/nicolet>



**Dr. Cami Thomas**  
*Principal*

## Building Community through Connection and Involvement

At Nicolet Middle School, **“We Are Banning”** is more than a theme—it’s a commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive school culture where students, parents, and staff feel connected and engaged. This year, we are proud to celebrate a series of accomplishments and activities that have brought our community closer together.

Our school has been recognized with the **PBIS Gold Implementation Award**, a testament to our dedication to creating a positive and supportive environment for all. This achievement reflects the hard work of our staff and students in promoting kindness, respect, and responsibility throughout our campus.

We’ve also created endless opportunities for involvement that inspire excitement and strengthen bonds. From fun **spirit days** to energetic **school dances** and even a **color run**, our events have given students memories they’ll cherish for years to come. Additionally, our thriving **band and orchestra** programs have drawn significant student



interest, culminating in a **holiday concert** that brought our community together to celebrate the season. Our **Matachines Club** enriches our cultural connection further by featuring students playing instruments and singing, showcasing their talents while honoring tradition.

These activities aren’t just about having fun—they’re about building relationships, fostering a sense of belonging, and celebrating the diverse talents that make Nicolet Middle School special. Together, as **“We Are Banning,”** we continue to strengthen our community and create opportunities for every student to shine.



# Banning High School

100 W. Westward Ave., Banning, CA 92220 • 951/922-0285 • <https://bhs.banning.k12.ca.us/o/bhs>



**Arturo Paz**  
Principal

## A Year of Excellence and Growth

At Banning High School, the theme **“We Are Banning”** comes alive through our students’ exceptional achievements and the unwavering support of our staff, families, and community. This year, we are celebrating milestones that showcase the academic, athletic, and artistic talents that make our school a thriving hub of success.

Our sports teams have made us incredibly proud, with several making it to the **CIF playoffs**. Their hard work, determination, and teamwork have brought a renewed sense of school spirit and pride to our campus. These accomplishments demonstrate that Banning High athletes excel both on the field and in the classroom, embodying the dedication that defines our school.

In the arts, our **Broadway Broncos Theater** program delighted audiences with a stunning performance of

**Radium Girls**. The production showcased the creativity, talent, and passion of our student performers and crew, reminding us of the power of storytelling to inspire and connect. Their success is a testament to the vibrant arts program we cultivate at Banning High School.

Academically, our **Career Technical Education (CTE)** program continues to expand through new partnerships and opportunities. This year, we’ve strengthened our CTE pathways, preparing students for future careers and higher education. By offering hands-on experiences and real-world skills, we ensure our students graduate ready to thrive in a competitive world.

These successes reflect the collective efforts of our students, staff, and community, all united under the banner of **“We Are Banning.”** As we celebrate our achievements, we remain committed to fostering an environment where every student can excel. Together, we are building a legacy of excellence that makes Banning High School a cornerstone of our community.



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# Banning *High School*

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# Banning *High School*

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# Coombs Alternative Education Center New Horizon High School / Banning Independent Study School / Banning Adult Education

1151 W. Wilson Ave., Banning, CA 92220 • 951/922-0250 • <https://newhorizons.banning.k12.ca.us/o/newhorizons>



**Dr. Melissa Lee**  
*Principal*

## Thriving through Alternative Education

At Banning Independent Study, New Horizon High School, and Banning Adult Education, we embody the spirit of “**We Are Banning**” by fostering an inclusive environment where all students feel

welcomed, supported, and empowered to achieve their goals. As part of the **Alternative Education Program**, these schools provide unique opportunities for students to excel academically, athletically, and as leaders in their community.

This year, our **boys’ basketball team** has brought pride and excitement to our campus with their **undefeated league record**. Their success is a reflection of the determination and teamwork that define our student body.

Our students are also making a difference beyond the classroom. Through their leadership and generosity, they organized a **food drive** to support families in need, giving back to the community that supports them. These acts of service highlight the character and compassion of our students, who truly embody what it means to lead with heart.



We are proud to announce that **New Horizon High School** has earned the **Platinum PBIS Implementation Award**, the highest recognition for fostering a positive school climate. This achievement underscores our commitment to creating

a welcoming, supportive environment where all students can thrive.

In the arts, our **Horizon Youth Theatre Ensemble** partnered with the **Oregon Shakespeare Festival School Visit Program**, bringing world-class theatrical education to our students. This program enriches their creative expression and broadens their horizons, inspiring a love for the arts and cultural exploration.

Together, these accomplishments showcase the excellence of our alternative education program. At Banning Independent Study, New Horizon High School, and Banning Adult Education, we prove that no matter the path, every student has the potential to succeed. United under the banner of “**We Are Banning**,” we celebrate a year of achievement and growth.



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Coombs Alternative Education Center  
New Horizon High School / Banning Independent Study School / Banning Adult Education

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## Office of the Superintendent



**Terrence Davis**  
*Superintendent*

### Leading the Way

At Banning Unified School District, the Superintendent's Office provides strategic leadership and oversight to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive. Guided by the theme "**We Are Banning,**" the

office fosters collaboration across the District's three divisions—**Educational Services, Business Services, and Human Resources**—to create a unified, student-centered approach to



education. By emphasizing academic excellence, equity, and innovation, the Superintendent's Office works to inspire and prepare students for success in an ever-evolving world.

The Superintendent's Office is dedicated to building strong relationships with students, families, staff, and community partners. Through open communication, forward-thinking policies, and a commitment to continuous improvement, the office ensures the District remains focused



on its mission to inspire, educate, and prepare students to achieve their full potential. With collaboration at the heart of every initiative, the Superintendent's Office embodies the spirit of "**We Are Banning,**" driving progress and success for the entire community.



# Educational Services

161 W. Williams St., Banning, CA 92220



**Dr. Tonia Causey-Bush**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

## Empowering Student Success

At Banning Unified School District, the Education Services Division drives the vision of **“We Are Banning”** by fostering a collaborative and innovative learning environment that supports the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional growth of all students. Through partnerships with community organizations and alignment with the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), we are committed to providing a comprehensive, high-quality educational experience that prepares students for success in college, career, and beyond.

Our initiatives, including the **Banning Learner Profile**, focus on cultivating a competitive advantage for students by emphasizing **rigorous and engaging instruction, collective efficacy, and targeted standards**. By leveraging data from our **Aeries Student Information System, Early Warning System** tools such as our **Common Formative Assessments** and implementing **multi-tiered systems of support**, we ensure that every student has access to equitable and personalized learning opportunities. With a focus on instructional leadership, innovative practices, and safe, supportive learning environments, the Education Services Division is proud to play a central role in accelerating student achievement and empowering teachers to inspire the next generation. Together, as **“We Are Banning,”** we are building a future of excellence and opportunity for our community.

# Business Services

161 W. Williams St., Banning, CA 92220



**Victor Herrera**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

## Providing Essential Support for District Success

The **Business Services Division** plays a vital role in supporting the theme of **“We Are Banning”** by providing the operational backbone that allows the District to thrive. Comprising **Child Nutrition Services, Facilities and Transportation, Fiscal Services, and Maintenance & Operations**, the division ensures that all ancillary services outside the classroom align with the District’s mission of fostering responsible, respectful, and prepared students. Through strategic resource allocation,

efficient systems, and world-class customer service, we maximize resources to support students and staff.

Key initiatives include the development of the **Business Services Resource Center** - a one-stop program with access to employee-related services and documents, the implementation of **General Obligation Bond Measure O**, and curb beautification projects to enhance school sites. With a focus on innovation, collaboration, and excellence, the Business Services Division exemplifies the spirit of **“We Are Banning”** by creating a supportive foundation that empowers every member of our community.

# Human Resources

161 W. Williams St., Banning, CA 92220



**Johnny Baker**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

## Supporting & Strengthening Staff

At Banning Unified School District, the Human Resources Division plays a vital role in advancing the **“We Are Banning”** theme by fostering a positive, inclusive, and supportive environment for all staff. Our goal is to recruit, develop, and retain a highly qualified and diverse workforce dedicated to empowering student success. Through well-rounded onboarding programs, ongoing professional development opportunities, and employee recognition initiatives, we ensure that every team member feels valued, prepared, and empowered to contribute meaningfully to the District’s mission.

In collaboration with our labor partners—the **Banning Teachers’ Association (BTA)** and the **California School Employee Association (CSEA)**—we maintain strong relationships that support a culture of respect and accountability. Our volunteer process exemplifies our commitment to community engagement while ensuring a safe and supportive environment for students. By aligning our efforts with the District’s vision, the Human Resources Division strengthens the foundation of **“We Are Banning”** by cultivating a collaborative community of passionate educators and staff who inspire and prepare students to reach their full potential.

# Communications Department

161 W. Williams St., Banning, CA 92220



**Angel Mead**  
*District &  
Community  
Relations  
Coordinator*

## Connecting Our Community

At Banning Unified School District, the Communications Department plays a vital role in bringing the “**We Are Banning**” theme to life. By serving as the central hub for all District messaging, we ensure that students, families, staff, and the broader community remain informed, connected, and engaged. Whether through timely crisis communication, impactful digital media, or clear and consistent internal and external updates, we amplify the voices of our District and celebrate the successes that define our community.

Through initiatives like the **Banning Bulletin** and **Community Corner**, we highlight achievements, promote key initiatives, and strengthen relationships with educational partners. Our work in **social media management**, **website oversight**, and the **Banning USD Real Talk Podcast** creates dynamic opportunities to share stories and engage with stakeholders in meaningful ways. By fostering open communication and showcasing the incredible accomplishments across the District, we uphold the spirit of “**We Are Banning**,” ensuring that every voice is heard, every milestone is celebrated, and every member of our community feels connected to the work we do.

## Facilities and Transportation Services

350 E. Lincoln St., Banning, CA 92220



**Kenneth Paige**  
*Director*

## Supporting Success through Safety and Innovation

The **Facilities and Transportation Department** exemplifies the “**We Are Banning**” theme by providing safe, efficient, and innovative infrastructure and transportation solutions that support the well-being and success of Banning Unified School District students and staff. From

maintaining secure and stable facilities to ensuring daily transportation for approximately 1,800 students, our department plays a critical role in fostering an environment where students can thrive academically and personally.

Key accomplishments include the successful **T-K expansion at Florida Street Discovery Center**, which increases access to early education for Banning families, and the implementation of a **free Bus Driver Training program**, designed to address driver shortages and improve service reliability. We are also leading the transition to an **electric fleet by 2035**, aligning with California’s sustainability goals and enhancing the District’s environmental responsibility.

Under the direction of **General Obligation Bond Measure O**, we are modernizing school sites with projects that include improving safety and communication systems, upgrading playground structures and multi-

purpose rooms, and enhancing electrical infrastructure to support expanded learning opportunities and electric vehicles. Regular inspections, curb beautification projects, and the introduction of a **student-tracking digital system** further highlight our commitment to operational excellence. Through innovation, collaboration, and a focus on safety, the Facilities and Transportation Department reflects the heart of “**We Are Banning**,” ensuring every student has the environment and resources they need to succeed.



## Fiscal Services

161 W. Williams St., Banning, CA 92220



**Eddie Ramos**  
*Director*

### Ensuring Financial Stability for District Success

The **Fiscal Services Department** is a cornerstone of the “**We Are Banning**” theme, ensuring the financial health and operational efficiency of Banning Unified School District. By managing key functions like **Accounting, Budgeting, Payroll, Benefits, Procurement, Risk Management, Accounts Payable, and Accounts Receivable**, our department provides critical support to staff, enabling them to focus on delivering exceptional educational experiences for students.

Our team works diligently to ensure financial resources are allocated effectively, supporting district-wide initiatives and operations. Current projects include the implementation of **HeliosEd**, a cutting-edge platform designed to streamline staff support functions such as **absence management, time and attendance tracking, substitute management, and onboarding workflows**.

Through rigorous financial oversight and innovative project management, Fiscal Services ensures transparency, accountability, and resource optimization. By maintaining a solid financial foundation, the department supports the District’s mission to empower students and reflects the collaborative spirit of “**We Are Banning**.” Together, we are building a future where fiscal responsibility and educational excellence go hand in hand.

## Innovation and Technology Services

1151 W. Wilson St., Banning, CA 92220



**Steve Barriga**  
*Innovation and Technology Officer*

### Powering Possibilities

The **Innovation and Technology Services Department** is integral to advancing the “**We Are Banning**” theme by managing the technological tools and systems that support learning, teaching, and operations throughout Banning Unified School District. From overseeing platforms such as **Aeries Student Information System, Google Workspace, i-Ready, GoGuardian, Zoom, Clever**, and more, to ensuring robust cybersecurity efforts, the department provides a secure and connected environment where students and staff can thrive.

In addition to managing essential educational and

operational platforms, the department supports **device rollouts for staff**, ensuring that all employees have the tools needed to enhance instruction and efficiency. Cybersecurity remains a top priority, with efforts to protect sensitive data and maintain safe digital environments for students and staff. By supporting programs like **CAASPP and ELPAC testing, Freshservice ticketing, and Follett Destiny library systems**, and enabling tools like **Seesaw, Think Central, and Edmentum**, we empower educators to focus on teaching and students to focus on learning.

With a commitment to innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement, the Innovation and Technology Services Department exemplifies the spirit of “**We Are Banning**” by driving technological excellence to meet today’s needs and prepare for tomorrow’s challenges.

## Instructional Services

1151 W. Wilson St., Banning, CA 92220



**Dr. Veronica Pendleton**  
*Director*

### Empowering Students

At the heart of the “**We Are Banning**” theme, the Instructional Services Department is dedicated to ensuring that every student in Banning Unified School District receives a high-quality, equitable education. By working collaboratively with educators, families, and community partners, we design and implement rigorous instructional programs that inspire learning, ignite curiosity, and empower students to achieve academic success and lifelong achievement.

From innovative **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** pathways and college-preparatory **AVID programs** to the enriching **Dual Immersion Program** and **English Learners Program** as well as advanced learning opportunities like **GATE** and the **Middle College Program**, our initiatives provide students with the tools they need to excel in a rapidly evolving world. Through committees like the **Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)** and the **District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)**, we actively engage families in shaping the educational journey. As we support diverse learners and drive continuous improvement, the Instructional Services Department exemplifies the collaborative spirit of “**We Are Banning**,” building pathways to success for every student in our District.

# Maintenance and Operations Services

350 E. Lincoln St., Banning, CA 92220



**Anthony Ingrassi**  
Director

## Creating Safe and Welcoming Spaces

The **Maintenance and Operations Department** at Banning Unified School District embodies the “**We Are Banning**” theme by ensuring all campuses are safe, functional, and welcoming for students, staff, and the community. Through services like **custodial care, grounds maintenance, facility repairs, and warehouse management**, our team

supports the District’s mission to create an optimal learning environment where students can excel.

Our custodial staff maintains cleanliness and safety across all sites, implementing programs like **floor refinishing and mid-day shifts** to ensure schools remain healthy and inviting. The grounds team

enhances the visual appeal of school sites through **irrigation repairs and landscaping projects**, while the maintenance team addresses essential needs like **plumbing, HVAC systems, fencing, and restrooms**, adhering to safety regulations and high standards. The warehouse team ensures the timely delivery of supplies, equipment, and materials, supporting smooth school operations through efficient **just-in-time reconfiguration** practices.

By fostering a collaborative approach and emphasizing continuous improvement, the Maintenance and Operations Department ensures every campus reflects the spirit of “**We Are Banning**.” Together, we create environments where students feel inspired to learn, staff are empowered to teach, and the community takes pride in its schools.

# Child Nutritional Services

1151 W. Wilson St., Banning, CA 92220



**Craig Pulsipher**  
Director

## Nourishing Minds and Building Community

The **Child Nutrition Services Department** plays a vital role in advancing the “**We Are Banning**” theme by ensuring students are well-nourished and ready to succeed. Nutrition is the foundation for academic achievement, directly impacting cognitive function, concentration, and energy levels. By offering balanced meals

that include fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins, we provide students with the nutrients they need to grow, learn, and thrive.

Our department’s work extends beyond meal service. Programs like the **School Nutrition Program**, which offers free meals to all students, and the **Seamless Summer Meal Program**, which provides meals to youth under 18 during the summer, ensure no child in our community goes hungry. Initiatives like the **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program** introduce students to new produce each month, fostering healthy eating habits. We are also transitioning to **40% scratch cooking** to enhance meal quality and flavor while promoting sustainability through partnerships with local farms and the Public Health Department.

In addition to feeding students, we focus on infrastructure improvements, such as **kitchen equipment upgrades**, new HVAC systems, and enhanced walk-in refrigerators and freezers across school sites. To streamline service, we’re implementing **student identification card systems** to expedite meal delivery.

Through the leadership of the **Wellness Committee**, we prioritize holistic student health by promoting wellness plans, physical activity, and mental health resources. Together, with the support of our families and community, Child Nutrition Services reflects the spirit of “**We Are Banning**” by nurturing the minds and bodies of our students for lifelong success.



# School Safety Department

161 W. Williams St., Banning, CA 92220



**Joseph Schilreff**  
*District &  
School Safety  
Coordinator*

## Creating Secure Learning Environments Together

At Banning Unified School District, the theme **“We Are Banning”** emphasizes the importance of working together to create safe, secure, and supportive learning environments. The School Safety Department is dedicated to ensuring the well-being of every student and staff member by proactively identifying and mitigating potential risks. Through collaboration with local law enforcement, district personnel, and community partners, we implement comprehensive safety protocols, maintain emergency response plans, and foster a culture of preparedness.

Our efforts include initiatives such as the **Hour Zero Emergency Response Program**, on-site **Security Officers**, and **School Resource Officers** in partnership with Banning PD. Tools like the **Visitor Management System**, **security cameras**, and a **two-way communications platform** enhance our ability to monitor and respond to potential threats. Programs like **anonymous tipline** and routine **emergency drills** further strengthen our commitment to safety. By integrating technology, education, and ongoing training, we create campuses where students can thrive academically and emotionally. Together, as **“We Are Banning,”** we are building a secure foundation for our community’s future.

## Special Education

1151 W. Wilson St., Banning, CA 92220



**Timothy Worthington**  
*Director*

## Supporting All Learners

The Special Education Department at Banning Unified School District embodies the **“We Are Banning”** theme by ensuring that every student with exceptional needs has access to a supportive, inclusive, and equitable education. Guided by the principles of the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** and the **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)**, we

are committed to providing a free and appropriate public education that empowers all students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our comprehensive services include **Adaptive Physical Education, Speech-Language Services, Assistive Technology, Behavioral Support, Occupational and Physical Therapy, Educationally Related Mental**

**Health Services (E.R.M.H.S.), and Workability Programs**, among many others. These programs are designed to meet the diverse needs of students across a range of ages and abilities. By collaborating with families, educators, and community partners, we create individualized education plans (IEPs) that ensure each student receives tailored support to reach their full potential.

The dedication and expertise of our team, including therapists, counselors, psychologists, and specialized educators, reflect our unwavering commitment to student success. Whether addressing intensive behavioral needs, supporting preschoolers, or guiding young adults through the **Adult Transition Program**, we strive to create an environment where every learner feels valued and supported. Together, as **“We Are Banning,”** we are building pathways to success for all students.

## Student Services

161 W. Williams St., Banning, CA 92220



**Dr. Moises M. Merlos**  
*Director*

## Supporting Every Student

The **Student Services Department** exemplifies the **“We Are Banning”** theme by working collaboratively with school sites, the District Office, Riverside County Office of Education, non-public schools, and local private schools to ensure the diverse needs of all students are met. Our commitment to fostering a positive and safe learning environment underscores every aspect of

our work, as we partner with parents to provide the best possible educational experience for their children.

Through programs like **Centralized Registration**

**and Enrollment, Child Welfare and Attendance**, and **Expanded Learning Opportunities**, we strive to create equitable access to education and resources. Services such as **Alternative Placements, Home and Hospital, Independent Studies**, and **Saturday School** ensure that students receive the support they need to thrive academically and socially. By overseeing initiatives like the **School Accountability Review Board (SARB)** and providing **Family Resources**, we actively address attendance, behavior, and other challenges, fostering a culture of success and inclusion. Together, as **“We Are Banning,”** the Student Services Department is dedicated to empowering every student and family in our community.

## Leadership Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Banning in the subject line)

Entries must be received by March 15, 2025

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished  | Organized      |
| Caring        | Powerful       |
| Confident     | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model     |
| Drive         | Strong Willed  |
| Enthusiastic  | Suitable       |
| Focused       | Teamwork       |
| Independent   | Trustworthy    |
| Initiative    | Understanding  |
| Intelligent   |                |

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Y O G T E A M W O R K H F T L
Q T N E D N E P E D N I X T U
G N I R A C V G D T F B D N F
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P C A E L B A T I U S C I I W
D E T E R M I N A T I O N L O
I B S X G W T S U F B M A L P
A B R Q V J I Z N M I P G E D
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T R U S T W O R T H Y H E K F
T S T R O N G W I L L E D R T
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## Novelist –Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com](mailto:SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com) Please put Banning in the subject line.

Entries must be received by March 15, 2025

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| COMPUTER   | PEN         |
| EDITOR     | BROWSER     |
| IPAD       | GOOGLE      |
| SPELLCHECK | INTERNET    |
| PRINTER    | BING        |
| PUBLISHER  | ASPIRIN     |
| NOTEPAD    | KEYBOARD    |
| READERS    | TELEPHONE   |
| PENCIL     | WIFI        |
| IDEAS      | IMAGINATION |

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I K P B R O W S E R G E I
N M C D R A O B Y E K L M
I S A E D I P A D H G G A
R R Y G H R Y V T S N O Q
I E V S I C E E D I T O R
P D T N Z N L D B L F G Y
S A T U V E A L N B M I I
A E S V P P A T E U O V W
R R T H E M S U I P T W Y
Y U O T N D O P U O S X Y
H N O Z C B C C H V N P N
E N G X I K O Y V N U A N
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## We Are Banning

