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NEWS RELEASE

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Manzanita Elementary School Named One of Nation's Top 10, Spotlighting Academic Excellence

COVINA, CA – Manzanita Elementary School has been named one of America's Best Schools by the National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) in 2025, a prestigious honor that highlights the school's unwavering commitment to educational excellence, equity, and strong academic and extracurricular programs that prepare the District's young learners for lifelong success.

With this award, NCUST recognizes Manzanita as one of the top 10 elementary schools in the nation, celebrating its ability to achieve high levels of academic proficiency for all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, or income level.

"This recognition really makes us feel seen and supported in our efforts to make Manzanita a standout school," principal Dr. Beth Mossman said. "Our staff are all incredibly humble and hardworking, and our students come ready every day to do their best. It's a very special place with countless opportunities for students to explore, grow, and thrive."

A key highlight of Manzanita's offerings is its Spanish Dual Language Immersion program, which empowers students to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural. The program extends beyond language instruction and is integrated into various aspects of the school's curriculum. In art classes, students study the works of influential Spanish and Latin artists such as Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. Throughout the year, students also explore cultural traditions, including Día de los Muertos, and participate in an end-of-year multicultural celebration where they research and present on countries around the world.

In addition to its strong academic and cultural programs, Manzanita offers rich music education opportunities. Students can participate in beginning and advanced mariachi ensembles, choir, and band, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to discover and cultivate their talents.

"There is something for every student at Manzanita," Mossman said. "We are incredibly proud of the programs we offer and strive every day to prepare our students for their future."

Manzanita Elementary has received multiple accolades in the 2024-25 school year, including being named a California Distinguished School and earning a spot on the U.S. News & World Report's Best K-8 Schools list.

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“Manzanita Elementary School is an exceptional school in our District,” Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Eminhizer said. “This national recognition reflects the passion, innovation, and dedication of the entire school community – from our educators and support staff to our students and families. Manzanita exemplifies what is possible when we believe in every child’s unlimited potential and provide the tools to help them succeed.”

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

CVUSD_MANZANITA1: Manzanita Elementary School has been named one of America's Best Schools by the National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST), a prestigious honor that highlights the school's unwavering commitment to educational excellence, equity, and strong academic and extracurricular programs.

CVUSD_MANZANITA2: Manzanita Elementary School has many strong academic and cultural programs, including Spanish Dual Language Immersion and robust arts and music programs such as beginner and advanced mariachi.

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