



ELKHORN SCHOOL NAMED NATIONAL BLUE-RIBBON SCHOOL FOR 2019

By Lodi Unified School District

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) has announced Elkhorn School (Elkhorn) as a National Blue-Ribbon School for 2019. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. This year, 362 schools have been recognized as National Blue-Ribbon Schools. Elkhorn is among only 30 schools in California to receive this designation.

The Department recognizes selected schools in one of two categories, which are based on student scores, student subgroup scores, and graduation rates. Elkhorn was deemed an "Exemplary High Performing School." This category is dedicated to schools who are "among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests."

"Lodi Unified is extremely proud of this well-deserved designation. Elkhorn teachers provide a rigorous academic program focused on meeting the needs of each student. The dedication of all staff members makes Elkhorn a nurturing and welcoming learning environment. We are fortunate to have a Board of Education that is committed to providing this unique service to our community," said Superintendent Cathy Nichols-Washer.

A choice school, Elkhorn serves over 250 students in grades 4-8 in the Gifted and Talented Education Program. The school follows the National Standards in Gifted and Talented Education in their educational practices, which allows for powerful learner-driven experiences. Elkhorn strives to develop student scholars through means of peer collaboration in all subject areas.

Elkhorn's mission is to "provide a rigorous curriculum by means of differentiating instruction, compacting, enriching, and accelerating the curriculum to foster academic and social growth."

"Our staff implements an innovative approach to educating our students. We want them to be life-long learners. Elkhorn is dedicated to meeting the needs of all gifted learners," said Elkhorn Principal Patricia White.

ELKHORN ELEMENTARY

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Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites National Blue-Ribbon School nominations from the top education officials in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education.

"I have been honored to serve as the Principal of Elkhorn since 2014. Our school community is truly remarkable, and I am thrilled that the hard work of our teachers, staff, and students has been recognized on a national scale," White shared.

On November 14 and 15, 2019, the U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, and the Department will celebrate with the selected schools at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

This is yet another exciting designation to add to the school's list of accomplishments. Elkhorn received the California Distinguished School Award in 2018 and was a National Blue-Ribbon School in 2008.

To learn more about Elkhorn School's designation, please visit: https://nationalblueribbonsschools.ed.gov/awardwinners/winning/19ca120pu_elkhorn_school.html

- **The End**