



# PROMOTING COLLEGE AWARENESS FOR ALL



Devin Vodicka, EdD, Superintendent

The graduating class of 2017 will be the first group eligible for the Vista Unified School District Guaranteed Admissions Agreement with California State University San Marcos. We call this the "WAVE Pact" and there are strategies in place to ensure that all of our learners develop a culture of college awareness.

For example, at Monte Vista Elementary School every class has adopted a university. Students learn a school chant and basic facts about the university. College flags and symbols cover the campus and even kindergarten students can tell you why college is an important goal for their learning.

Every week students and staff are encouraged to wear college attire as part of "WAVE Pact Wednesdays." In addition, all students in 7th and 10th grade complete field trips to local universities to

become more comfortable in a higher education environment.

Vista Unified School District has also hired additional counselors at all middle schools to help students set a positive path for the future. We have also implemented new guidance software that allows students and their families to create multi-year plans and complete their college applications online.

As a result of these efforts, we have seen an increase in the percentage of graduates that meet the "A-G" entrance requirements to apply directly to California State Universities and Universities of California. In fact, the percentage of graduates meeting these requirements has improved by almost 8% over the past two years. This is an excellent indicator of progress and I look forward to continued growth as we work together to expand opportunities for all students.



2nd grade students at Monte Vista Elementary School