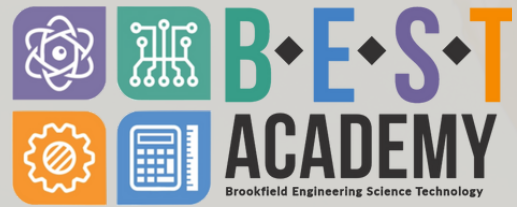


# INSIDER

Stay Informed. Stay Connected. Stay Inspired.



## FEBRUARY 2025

### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

#### Welcome to the Inaugural Edition of the BEST Academy School Newsletter!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of BEST Insider, your go-to source for the latest updates, achievements, and innovations at BEST Academy! We are excited to launch this newsletter as a way to keep you informed, celebrate our school community, and highlight the incredible work happening across our programs.

Each edition of BEST Insider will bring you important updates, insights into upcoming events, and inspiring stories that showcase the heart of our school community. This newsletter will serve as a platform to celebrate our achievements, inform you about important events, and highlight the incredible work at BEST Academy.

From academic highlights to groundbreaking National Honor Society projects, we look forward to sharing the many ways our students and educators are making an impact. In each edition of the newsletter, you can expect to find important updates about our programs, insights into upcoming events, and inspiring stories that showcase the heart of our school community.

We look forward to building strong connections with our families and informing you as we grow. Thank you for your support, and here's to a fantastic journey ahead!

Warm regards,  
James Mays & Alejandro Soriano  
BEST Academy Executive Directors

## ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

### Compete, Achieve, and Earn Opportunities!

Exciting news at BEST Academy! Starting in February, you can earn up to \$300 in OPS funds by reaching your goals in Clever Apps. You can use your OPS funds for more than just materials and our amazing vendors are here and ready to assist! Learn a new language with quality online classes, attend music lessons or explore new sports and activities. Whether you're looking to build new skills or explore your passions, your OPS funds are here to support your journey. Start discovering today!

## BEST RESOURCE HUB

### What's New at RLL?

Our **Resources Learning Library** is excited to offer Cubit Kits that you can check out and use at home! And they are all one click away from your reach. These kits are full of fun, hands-on activities that help you learn about science, technology, and engineering while having a blast. Whether you're building your own inventions or solving puzzles, you'll develop problem-solving skills and creativity. We also have a great selection of board games like Jenga, Sequence, and Catan that you can play with friends or family. These games help you think strategically, work as a team, and improve your focus, all while having fun. Check out these awesome resources today and start learning through play!

[Click here](#) to check out the books and resources we have available.



Honor in Action! BEST Academy NHS students give back to the community at the Imperial Beach cleanup event.



BEST Academy students watch in awe as a majestic lion shows up at their exciting field trip to the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

### ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



February 1, 2025  
[Museum of Us in San Diego](#)



February 5, 2025  
[Coffee Chats w/ the Counselors](#)



February 7, 2025  
[Whale Watching at Newport Harbor Cruise](#)



February 14, 2025 @ 10:00am  
[Community College/ Dual Enrollment Seminar](#)



February 14, 2025  
[Coffee Chats w/ the Counselors](#)



February 14, 2025  
[Lyon Air Museum in Santa Ana](#)



February 14, 2025  
[Valentine's Trail Trek in Chula Vista](#)



February 15, 2025  
[Dog Man the Musical](#)



February 18, 2025  
[Bowers Museum in Santa Ana](#)



February 19, 2025  
[Southwestern College Campus Tour](#)



February 21, 2025  
[Institute of Contemporary Art San Diego](#)



February 21, 2025  
[Riverside County Fair and Date Festival](#)



February 26, 2025 @ 1:00pm  
[Senior Assembly](#)



February 28, 2025  
[Painting at Eisenhower Park in Seal Beach](#)





## THE COUNSELOR INSIGHT

### Pathways to the Future: College and Career Updates

At BEST Academy, our Counselors help students explore post-high school options, guide them through college pathways, and offer tuition-free dual-enrollment courses. We also provide monthly college prep resources like workshops, college tours, parent coffee chats, and FAFSA support.

### Missed the Latest?

- [Counselor Coffee Chat](#)
- [College Application Writing Workshop](#)
- [Post High School Planning](#)

### Coming Soon:

[Community College / Dual Enrollment Seminar](#) - February 14th @ 10am  
[Southwestern Community College Campus Tour](#) - February 19th @ 9am  
[Senior Assembly](#) - February 26th at 1:00pm  
[Coffee Chats w/ the Counselors](#) - February 5th @ 9:00am & February 14th @ 9:45am

### SEL Highlights

We're excited to introduce our new **Counselor Corner!** A welcoming space where students can come to recharge, chat, hear a story, play a game, or simply just check in. Counselor Corner will be offered twice a month. What better way to start or end the week! Participation is optional, and students are welcome to join whenever they'd like!



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Mackenzie Nelson

Since joining BEST Academy, Mackenzie has discovered a true passion for designing personalized education plans that empower students. She thrives on the flexibility homeschooling offers, allowing education to be tailored to each student's unique needs, strengths, and challenges. She is dedicated to helping students grow into confident, independent learners, equipped to navigate their own journeys.

Outside of work, Mackenzie enjoys watching Dodger games with her family, hiking Orange County trails, and planning road trips to explore quirky roadside attractions across the country.

## ELD SHOWCASE

### English Learner's Achievement at BEST Academy is Up 17%

English Learners at BEST Academy are up 17% in performance compared to last year's data. Considering that last year's data was 10% higher than the state average, this is a sign of another remarkable year. Way to go team!

To support our Long-Term English Learners (LTELs), we are hosting, biweekly workshops that target guidance and resources to help students achieve reclassification.

Parents are encouraged to attend monthly [ELAC meetings](#) and [ELPAC information sessions](#) to ensure families have the tools and knowledge to support their children's success. Invitations are shared via email and [ParentSquare](#). We look forward to seeing many of you there.

The **Summative ELPAC** testing window runs from **February 3rd to May 31st**. Students will receive specific details about their testing dates and locations via email. If you have any questions about the schedule or location, please contact [NMaldonado@BESTAcademyCS.com](mailto:NMaldonado@BESTAcademyCS.com).

## NHS BEHIND THE SCENES

### Celebrating Excellence in Scholarship and Service!

The **National Honor Society** students kicked off the 2024-2025 year of service on December 6th with a park clean-up at Montgomery-Waller Park. Their second project occurred at Imperial Beach on Friday, January 17th, with another clean-up. The NHS events, held once a month, allow our students to get to know each other and beautify and benefit their community - an essential goal to this group of scholars. Students are also working on individual projects that support our school and the greater community!

## ENRICHMENT CLASSES



[Piñata Craft](#)  
Mondays at 11:30am



[Science on Display](#)  
Mondays at 12:30pm



[Self Expression In Art](#)  
Tuesdays at 11:00am



[Coloring for Comfort](#)  
Wednesdays at 9:00am



[Picture Book Creation](#)  
Wednesdays at 9:00am



[Art with Arcs](#)  
Wednesdays at 10:00am



[Knitting with a Loom](#)  
Wednesdays at 10:00am



[Editing on Adobe Express](#)  
Wednesdays at 9:00am



[Yoga](#)  
Wednesdays at 11:00am



[Lines and Shapes](#)  
Wednesdays at 10:00am



[Graphic Design: Brand Identity](#)  
Thursdays at 11:00am



[Directed Drawing for Beginners](#)  
Thursdays at 11:00am



[Art in Space](#)  
Thursdays at 11:30am



[Creating and Editing Videos in Canva](#)  
Thursdays at 12:30am



[Popular Music in America](#)  
Thursdays at 1:00pm



[Collages and Science](#)  
Fridays at 8:30am



[Digital Photography and Videography](#)  
Fridays at 10:00am



[Chicano Latino Art History](#)  
Fridays at 1:00pm



[Scientific Artists](#)  
Tuesdays at 10:00am



[Rock Kindness Project](#)  
Wednesdays at 8:30am



[Tessellation Art](#)  
Tuesdays at 11:00am



[Alphabet Animals Directed Drawing](#)  
Tuesdays at 11:00am



[History of Opera](#)  
Fridays at 10:00am

[www.BESTAcademyCS.com](http://www.BESTAcademyCS.com)