

KRISTA CASTELLANOS

Governing Board Member, Capistrano Unified School District, Trustee Area 5

I am seeking re-election to the Board of Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD). My qualifications, which include a Master's in Education from Cal State Fullerton and a Teaching Credential from Cal State Long Beach, attest to my love for students and teaching. As a CUSD parent of three daughters who attend or have graduated from public schools in Aliso Viejo, I understand the daily joys and challenges of raising children; and as an elementary school teacher in a neighboring district, I am passionate about giving our kids the best start in life.

Parents are a child's first teacher, and they are partners with the school in their children's education. I believe in clear communication and transparency, and making sure parents feel heard. I have supported community town halls and coffee chats at our schools to keep parents and other community members informed. Under my leadership, our schools and students benefited from new career education courses in pertinent, in-demand fields such as cybersecurity and robotics; middle school intramural sports to support physical health and mental well-being; STEM teaching specialists at our elementary schools to make learning fun and engaging; and a state-of-the-art Physical Science building at Aliso Niguel High School that provides innovative science labs for learning.

Since joining the Capistrano Unified School District Board, I have successfully advocated for the expansion of Transitional Kindergarten into every school site, ensuring that our youngest learners get a strong start; improved family resources; the hiring of intervention specialists at every elementary campus to help students who need extra support; making safety a top priority by installing campus security cameras; better financial transparency on the district website; the addition of high school career and college counselors; an improved math curriculum that allows more student choices for taking rigorous math classes; and the opening of an early childhood center to assist young families.

I am deeply committed to our community and to making sure every child has a quality education that positions them for success in higher education, career, and life. I am proud of having made an impact for our students, and it has been my privilege and honor to serve this community. Together, through communication and collaboration, we can continue to make our schools an amazing place for young people to learn and grow.

www.kristaforcusd.com