

THE **POMONA** BULLETIN

**FATHER FIGHTS TO MAKE
TRAVEL TO SCHOOL SAFER**

**CEASAR CHAVEZ
BREAKFAST!**

POMONA SCHOOL OF ROCK!

**CLAREMONT STUDENT CHOOSES
POMONA HIGH SCHOOL
OVER CLAREMONT!**



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Village Academy and the Human Trafficking



As a dad, nothing weighs on me more than watching my child struggle—especially in school. Traditional classrooms just weren't working for Tuolumne. Large class sizes, constant noise, and a one-size-fits-all pace slowly drained her confidence. I could see her excitement for learning fading, and that's when I knew I had to find something different.

When I heard about a **FREE public school** in Pomona called **The Village Academy**, where classes are intentionally small and students can graduate high school **with a cosmetology license**, I scheduled a tour right away.

The moment I walked in, I was amazed. Located inside the old Indian Hill Mall, the campus was spotless, calm, and full of happy students. I actually asked when classes started because each room had so few kids. The staff laughed and said, "This is class—we keep it small on purpose."

What really stood out was how creativity is built into everything. There's a movie theater where film students screen their work. Yes—there's a film school. The band program is ROCK, where students form bands and collaborate with film students to create music videos.

But here's what surprised me most: all this creativity doesn't distract from academics—it inspires students to do better in school. Because students are engaged and excited, they show up, they participate, and they care.

In fact, **The Village Academy currently has the highest test scores in the district**, proving that when kids feel seen, supported, and inspired, academic success follows.

I assumed there would be a long waiting list. Instead, I learned the opposite. Because the school is on Holt, families often overlook it. That's heartbreaking, because this is one of the safest, most supportive campuses I've ever visited.

For the first time in a long time, Tuolumne is excited about school. And as a dad, that means everything. As a dad, I couldn't just sit back and hope someone else would fix what's happening on Holt.

I also don't think it's fair that our children don't feel safe walking to school. Tuolumne who is attending next year asked to take her scooter to school. That's why I started Take Back Pomona and why, alongside Collective Accion, we are opening an Art Studio on Holt and Clark. This space will be a safe, positive presence – a place where we can look out for any child walking to Village Academy. We've met multiple times with city officials and community organizations to create a real plan to clean up Holt and make it safe for students.

I'm doing this because I want my child to walk to school safely – and I want the same for yours. By the time school starts next year, Holt will be safer. Together, we can Take Back Holt and help our students thrive at this incredible school of creativity.

If you're curious, I invite you to tour the school on **March 18th at 5pm** and see it for yourself.

If you are an existing PUSD student and want to transfer scan the QR code for a private tour.



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REASONS TO LIST WITH MITCH STEIN

HE KNOWS POMONA

Mitch doesn't just work here—he lives here. With 25+ years in the city, he understands each neighborhood's unique vibe, history, and value.

HYPER-LOCAL PRICING STRATEGY

Mitch knows exactly what homes have sold for, and why. He combines this knowledge with decades of community connections to help sellers position their property at the sweet spot where it moves quickly and profitably.

FULL-SERVICE EXPERIENCE



From listing to closing (and even after), Mitch handles the details, solves problems, and helps you transition smoothly—because he wants you to stay part of the Pomona community.

HE CARES ABOUT YOU, NOT JUST THE SALE



Mitch treats you like a neighbor, not a number. His business is built on relationships—not transactions.

LOCAL LOYALTY EQUALS BUYER TRUST



Buyers trust agents who are invested in the community. Mitch's reputation helps buyers feel confident, which helps your home sell faster and for more.

DEEP COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



From nonprofit boards to small business shoutouts, Mitch is rooted in the local network—meaning more buyers, more referrals, and more visibility for your listing.

STRATEGIC MARKETING THAT WORKS HERE



Mitch uses targeted social media, The Pomona Bulletin, the Pomona Rewards App, and local events to market directly to qualified buyers in the area.



CUSTOMIZED SELLING STRATEGY



No one-size-fits-all approach here. Mitch creates a game plan that works for your home, your timeline, and your goals.

CLEAR, HONEST COMMUNICATION

Mitch is a straight shooter. You'll always know where things stand—and he'll guide you through the process every step of the way.

CONCIERGE PREP SERVICES



He offers free walkthroughs and connects you to trusted Pomona-based contractors, stagers, cleaners, and photographers—people he knows and uses himself.



kw COLLEGE PARK
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DRE# 02200120

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SCAN



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A Better Way Forward for Many Students

When your child finally looks forward to going to school, you know you've found something special. That's what stood out to me about The Village Academy in Pomona. This is a school designed for students who are capable, creative, and motivated – but who don't always thrive in large, traditional college-prep environments. It's a place where learning feels personal, purposeful, and connected to the real world.

Village Academy works because it meets students where they are. Class sizes are intentionally small, which means students aren't lost in the crowd. Teachers know their students, understand how they learn, and can adjust when someone needs more support or more challenge. For kids who have struggled to keep up or stay engaged in bigger schools, that individual attention can make all the difference.



One of the school's standout offerings is its Film and Multimedia Career Technical Education program. Students don't just study film theory – they actively create. They learn camera work, editing, storytelling, sound, and post-production, gaining hands-on experience that mirrors real industry work. The campus even includes a movie theater, where students can screen their films. Seeing their work on a big screen builds confidence and pride, and for many students, it's the first time they truly feel recognized for their talents.



What truly sets Village Academy apart, though, is the way academics are paired with career-focused and creative programs that give students a reason to care about their education.

Music students find a similar sense of purpose through the Rock and Roll Academy. This isn't a traditional band class. Students form real bands, learn instruments, write music, and perform together.



A Better Way Forward for Many Students



The program emphasizes collaboration, commitment, and creative expression. What makes it especially powerful is how students work across programs – music students partnering with film students to create music videos, learning how different skills come together in the real world.

For students interested in healthcare, Village Academy offers a Health Support Career Technical Education pathway. This program introduces students to health science and medical support fields, providing early exposure to a career path that is both meaningful and in demand. For many students, this is the first time they can clearly imagine themselves in a professional role that feels achievable.

Academics remain a strong focus throughout the school. Students have access to a wide range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, including English, history, science, math, Spanish, and computer science. For those who want to get a head start on college, Village Academy also offers dual-enrollment courses through Mt. San Antonio College, allowing students to earn transferable college credits while still in high school. These options ensure that students who choose college are well prepared – without forcing every student into the same path.



Village Academy also understands that flexibility matters. With blended and online learning options available, students can work at a pace that suits them – whether that means catching up, moving ahead, or balancing school with other commitments. This adaptability is especially helpful for students who have felt overwhelmed or discouraged in rigid academic settings.



Another important opportunity for some families is the after-school cosmetology pathway offered through partner programs. While cosmetology is not part of the regular school-day curriculum, students who are passionate about beauty, wellness, and entrepreneurship can pursue cosmetology training after school while remaining enrolled at Village Academy. This allows students to stay academically on track while actively working toward a career they're excited about – a powerful combination for students who are hands-on and goal-driven.

What makes all of these programs work is engagement. When students are doing work that feels relevant and meaningful, they show up differently. They participate. They take ownership. Creativity doesn't distract from academics here – it strengthens them. Students are more motivated to succeed in their core classes because they can see how education connects to their future.

VILLAGE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL'S

OPEN HOUSE

At Village Academy, we specialize in Film Production, Broadcasting, the Arts, Rock n' Roll and much more!

**COME LEARN ALL ABOUT THE
#1 HIGH SCHOOL IN PUSD!**

**MARCH 18, 2026
5:00 TO 6:30PM**

**LOCATED AT
1444 EAST HOLT AVE.
POMONA, CA 91767**



**SCAN ME
TO RSVP!**





VILLAGE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

ACADEMY OF FILM PRODUCTION, ROCK AND ROLL, ARTS

1444 E Holt Ave. Pomona, CA 91767

(909) 397-4900

villageacademy.pusd.org

ROGER FASTING
PRINCIPAL

ALBERT TAN
VICE PRINCIPAL

CLAUDIA ESCOBEDO
COUNSELOR

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

HISPANIC:	89.1%
ASIAN:	4.4%
WHITE:	2%
BLACK:	2.8%
ENGLISH LEARNERS:	19%
SPECIAL EDUCATION:	10%

20:1

STUDENT TO TEACHER
RATIO

55%

STUDENTS WHO MET UC/CSU
(A-G) REQUIREMENTS

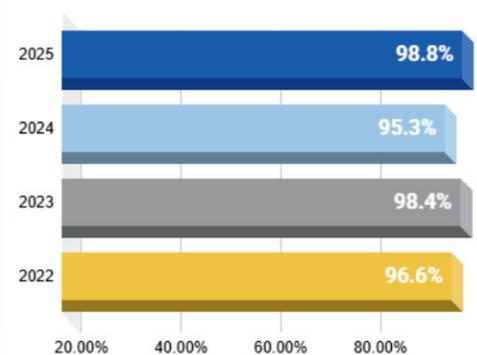


ABOUT US

Founded in 2001, Village Academy High School is a small setting school with a population averaging 300 students in the Pomona Unified School District. **VAHS** is consistently the **HIGHEST ACHIEVING High School in PUSD** on multiple measures including State and Federal Testing in the areas of ELA, Math, & Graduation Rates.

PUSD HS % Meet/Exceed CAASPP 2025	English	Math
Diamond Ranch	67%	25%
Fremont Academy	55%	17%
Ganesha	27%	8%
Garey	52%	25%
Pomona	43%	13%
Village Academy	76%	33%

VAHS Graduation Rate by Year



SIGNATURE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

COLLEGE COURSES - DUAL ENROLLMENT WITH MT. SAC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The following courses will be offered in 2026-2027 academic year: English 1000, Intro to Psychology, World Art and Visual Culture, Rock and Roll History and Appreciation, Intro to Public Speaking, College Success Strategies. All classes are on the CALGETSY and are transferable to all UC's, CSU's and most colleges in US.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT / HONORS
The AP courses offered include: World History, U.S. History, Government, Economics, English Language, Spanish Language, Environmental Science, Computer Science, and Pre-calculus

EDGENUITY
Edgenuity is an online learning platform that provides courses in a variety of subjects. It is offered during school hours, after-school and on Saturdays.

VOCATIONAL / CTE
Film and Multimedia: CTE program offering hands-on training in film production, multimedia arts and technical skills with top of the line equipment.

Health Support: CTE program that provides a foundational understanding of health science, medical technology and related technical skills

ROCK AND ROLL ACADEMY (ELECTRIC GUITARS, PERCUSSION, KEYBOARDS, MICS+)
Our signature Rock and Roll program allows students to explore musical interests and participate in "Battle of the Bands" contests with their friends and classmates.

A Better Way Forward for Many Students



The campus environment itself supports this success. Located inside the former Indian Hill Mall, Village Academy is largely indoors, secure, and calm. For parents, that brings peace of mind. For students, it creates a focused, structured setting where learning can thrive without constant distractions.

Village Academy is especially effective for students who have struggled in traditional college-bound schools – not because they lack ability, but because they need a different approach. This school proves that when students feel seen, supported, and inspired, they can succeed academically and personally.

If your child is capable but disengaged...
If they are creative, career-minded, or hands-on...
If traditional school just hasn't been the right fit...

Village Academy is worth serious consideration. It offers students multiple pathways to success – and the support they need to walk them with confidence. Sometimes the right school isn't about changing the student.

It's about changing the environment so the student can finally thrive.

Why This Model Works

- **Small class sizes**

Village Academy intentionally keeps classes small, allowing teachers to build real relationships with students, identify challenges early, and tailor instruction to how each student learns.

- **Project-based, hands-on learning**

Programs like Film & Multimedia, Rock and Roll, and Health Support connect academics to real-world skills. When students see why learning matters, motivation and performance increase.

- **Multiple pathways to success**

Not every student thrives on a traditional college-only track. Village Academy offers career-focused pathways alongside Advanced Placement and dual-enrollment college courses, meeting students where they are – without limiting their future options.

- **Creativity fuels academics**

Creative and technical programs don't replace core subjects – they reinforce them. Engagement leads to better attendance, stronger participation, and improved academic outcomes.

- **Proven academic results**

This approach is working. **The Village Academy currently reports the **highest test scores in the district**, showing that when students feel supported and inspired, academic achievement follows.

Who Is This School Best For?

- **Students struggling in traditional college-prep schools**

Village Academy is a strong fit for students who are capable but disengaged in large, lecture-based environments and need a more personal, supportive approach.

- **Creative and hands-on learners**

Students interested in film, music, multimedia, healthcare, or cosmetology thrive when learning is active, collaborative, and connected to real-world skills.

- **Students who learn better in smaller settings**

With intentionally small class sizes, students who feel overwhelmed or overlooked in big schools often regain confidence and focus.

- **Students who want multiple future options**

Whether a student plans to attend college, enter a creative field, pursue healthcare, or build a career through skilled training, Village Academy keeps pathways open rather than forcing a single definition of success.

- **Students who need structure and safety**

The largely indoor campus at the former Indian Hill Mall offers a calm, secure environment that helps students stay focused and supported.

- **Families looking for engagement—not just attendance**

This school works well for families who want their child to feel motivated, connected, and invested in their education – not just showing up to get through the day.

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offer for free week trial and no
enrollment fee at sign up.

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minimum
\$399 meal party 10 kids
minimum
Valid any time.

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Why I Want to Go to the Village Academy



To be honest, I don't really like school. I have a hard time paying attention, and when I don't understand something, it's hard for me to ask for help. I do like hair, makeup, cheer, soccer, and nails. So my dad suggested we look for a high school that offers cosmetology. We found out through Lorraine Canales (the counselor and city councilwoman) that cosmetology is offered at Village Academy.

I was excited when I heard this and hopeful that I could go to a school where I could learn how to do nails. So we set up a tour and visited on a sunny Wednesday afternoon. On the day of the tour, I was nervous to see a new school because I didn't know anyone. When we pulled up to the school, I was scared because of how tall it was. But when I walked in, the first thing I noticed was how nice the inside was. I had never been in an indoor school before. It felt different, but safe and comfortable. At my current school, we have to spend lunch and other times outside, and that can be uncomfortable. The school was also very clean, and all the walls were covered in pictures and art made by the students.

Lorraine showed us around, and I noticed that the classes were not very full, unlike my current school which has a lot of kids. When we walked into the art class, we didn't see a teacher at first. That was because she was sitting at a table doing art with the students. She came over, introduced herself, and talked to us about the 2D art program. She was very kind, and everyone in the class seemed happy.

We also toured the film and TV classroom. Students were working in groups or by themselves. Again, the teacher came up to us and was kind, not grumpy like some teachers at my current school. The walls had old cameras and posters that students made for their film projects. They looked like real movie posters.

Next, we went to the very large indoor cafeteria, and it was huge. Lorraine told me this is where cheer practices, and I got excited imagining myself cheering in that space. They don't have sports teams, so cheer is just for the group instead of for games.

I even got to meet the principal. At first I was nervous, but once I met him, I felt comfortable. His name is Mr. Fasting, and he was very kind—not mean or grumpy. He showed us a film about students who had formed bands. He explained that music class is an actual band with singers, drummers, and guitar players. I was amazed because I had never heard of a school with rock bands. I'm not sure I want to be in a band, but I'm excited to watch others perform.

When we left, I felt more relaxed and less nervous. I was happy and could really see myself going to Village Academy. I'm especially excited that the school is so close to my house that I could even ride my electric scooter there. I can't wait to learn how to do nails and hair!



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of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley

22nd Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast

March 27th, 2026
Sheraton Fairplex, 8 to 10 AM

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