

Next Event:

**Annual All Class BBQ
& Fundraiser**
October 19th, 2025
12:00 pm
(More info on page 4)



SAVE THE DATE

Dec 7th, 2025

Holiday Concert

Featuring our Wurlitzer Organ
A family Sing Along event
Free Event, open to all Alumni, Friends,
Family & Whittier Community Members

Newsletter of the Whittier High School Alumni Association and Educational Foundation

Cardinal Chatter

WHSAAEF
PO BOX 65
WHITTIER
90608-0065

Current topics >>

- President's Word
- Message from Principal Favela
- Upcoming Reunions
- Back to the Future was back at WHS – Hall of Champions Fundraiser Recap by VP Nadia Moya
- Upcoming Events
- Have you made your annual membership donation yet?
- Whittier Museum Exhibit
- All Class BBQ – October 19th
- Donation Opportunities & \$125 for the 125th



A word from our WHSAAEF President, Rob West

**Fall
2025**

Reunion season is back and Whittier High School is a great place to experience nostalgia. Being on campus sends us back to a time when anything seemed possible and the arc of our lives was, perhaps, impossible to envision. Wherever we find ourselves today is a consequence, in part, of our youthful passions and the imperceptible nudges we experienced along the way. None for me were as influential as those of a few instructors at Whittier in the late 70's. One of those instructors was home economics teacher Colleen Davis, who let me know how hilarious she found an article I had written in my Philosophy of Life English course taught by Dick Newton. Up to that point I had no idea that teachers shared anything about their classwork with other instructors. Furthermore, it occurs to me now that their interest in our well-being and self-actualization was of foremost concern to them.

As in the past, so it is in the present, and likely to be in the future. Students at Whittier High School receive a high quality education as a consequence of an extraordinary environment nurtured by faculty, staff and administrators who are devoted to their crafts and find meaningful purpose in their work. This year, as we celebrate 125 years of Whittier High School, the administrative team is returning with no changes. This creates an opportunity for expanding the "WHS Legacy of Excellence" because we have worked with and developed relationships with Principal Andres Favela, the VP team of Alecia Gonzales (Guidance), Marco Ramirez (Business & Activities), Allison Huntley (Curriculum), Dean of Students, Eduardo Galindo and Horizons Director, Norma Sierra. Their support contributes to the success of Alumni Association events and programs and their leadership has helped us to envision an expansion of our role in contributing to their success. One great example is the wildly successful Back to the Future at WHS event held in July, which was originally conceived by Allison and brought to fruition through a collaboration led by our current VP Nadia Moya. After all was said and done, we raised over \$27,000 for the remodeling of the Bob Chandler Sports complex foyer we now call the "Hall of Champions".

The walls of the Hall of Champions will soon be wrapped in a pictorial history of WHS that represents the arc of the past 125 years of excellence and will contribute to that ongoing legacy in a memorable way. One way to experience that legacy is to attend one of our upcoming events
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...And Always, Always Love You Whittier High!

UPCOMING CARDINAL REUNIONS

2025 Reunions - All Class Reunion BBQ/Tour/Organ Concert Sun Oct 19, 2025 at noon. Contact Janice Lanham Zolnekoff whittierhighalumni@gmail.com or 562-556-4000 to update reunion/class contact info.

1965 - 60 year reunion Sat Oct 11, 2025. Class rep is Cathy Chandler George 562-631-5311 or cggeorge0910@gmail.com
Check us out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/674858959262657/>

1970 - 55 year reunion Sat Oct 18, 2025. Mission Square Restaurant 5 – 10pm. Contact Janice Lanham Zolnekoff at 562-556-4000 or whittierhigh1970@aol.com. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/422788928513867/>

1971 – 55 year Reunion planned for 2026 Check out Facebook page (Whittier High School Class of 1971). Contact Carl Devore 585-721-9811 carldevore@gmail.com or Katie Rall 408-425-8852 katierall@gmail.com

1975 - 50 year Reunion Sat Sept 20, 2025 at DoubleTree by Hilton Whittier at 5pm.

Facebook – “Whittier High — Class of 75” Contact Patti Oeh Lagrelius 310-753-4159

or WHSCardinals1975@gmail.com There will also be a WHS Tour on Sun Sept 21 at 11:15am.

If you are planning a reunion reach out to the WHS Alumni Association to give you some ideas and to post your event on our website.
If any of the contacts above are incorrect, please let us know. Email whittierhighalumni@gmail.com or call Janice 562-556-4000.

Great Scott! What an Event!

On Saturday, June 21, 2025, the Whittier High School Alumni Association and Whittier High School proudly hosted the ***Back to the Future Returns to Whittier High School*** fundraising event to support the revitalization of the Hall of Champions. With over 600 attendees and many generous donations, the event raised more than \$27,000 for the Hall of Champions project!

Guests enjoyed a delicious pizza dinner provided by Brickhouse Pizza, toured all of the filming locations around the campus, admired classic cars in the Horseshoe, and took photos with DeLoreans displayed on the front lawn. We also had support from the Whittier High PTSA and local businesses like Bricks and Minifigs and MyWhittier, all adding to the community spirit!

During dinner in the cafeteria, guests were treated to a gallery of incredible student artwork from the WHS Back to the Future Art Contest, featuring submissions from over 130 talented Whittier High School artists.

After dinner and tours, guests gathered in the historic Vic Lopez Auditorium for the main event. One of the evening's highlights was a Q&A panel featuring WHS alumni who attended the school during the original filming of *Back to the Future*. The panel, moderated by Bobby Ruiz (aka MyWhittier), Class of '87, gave the audience a special look into what it was like on campus during production. The night concluded with a screening of the film, with the crowd cheering every time Whittier High appeared on screen, truly an unforgettable experience!

Mark Your Calendars – More Exciting Events Ahead!

All-Class Barbecue – October 19, 2025 at 12:00 PM

Reconnect with WHS alumni from all classes! Enjoy a delicious BBQ hamburger lunch with all the fixings, take a campus tour, and experience a screening of Buster Keaton's *The Haunted House*, accompanied live by Mark Herman on the Wurlitzer Organ in the Vic Lopez Auditorium.

Holiday Community Celebration & Singalong – December 7, 2025 at 2:00 PM

Get into the holiday spirit at this free community event! Enjoy holiday favorites performed by David Marsh on the Wurlitzer Organ, free photos with Santa, and fun for the whole family.

Look out for more fun events in 2026 including, the *Hall of Fame Luncheon on April 19, 2026* and the *Fourth of July Extravaganza on June 27, 2026*, in celebration of the USA's 250th Anniversary.

Visit our website for event and ticket details and be sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date with all the latest WHS alumni news and happenings!

-Vice President, Nadia Moya '99

<https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/whsaaef-events/>



WhittierHighAlumniAssociation

Come see the Whittier High Exhibit at the Whittier Museum!

On September 6, an exhibit opened at the Whittier Museum commemorating Whittier High School's 125th anniversary.

The exhibit will run through the end of 2025.

Included in the exhibit is Bill Cole's letterman jacket, the original Whittier High library card catalog, yearbooks, class rings, and photo displays. Viewers also have the opportunity to see the Cardinal Legacy videos, both from 2000 and 2025.

Exhibit will be open Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm,
As well as a special opening at the All-Class Barbecue, October 19th, 2025

Whittier Museum
6755 Newlin Ave
Whittier CA 90601



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY AT
WHITTIERHIGHALUMNI.ORG

Yearly Membership - \$25
Lifetime Membership - \$1200
or monthly payments of \$100 for one year.
Tax I.D. #95-4753005

Lifetime Members: ALAN & SYLVIA LIPPINCOT '79, AMY BALTHASER JENKINS '77, BILL WELSH '70, BILL WOOD '41* #, BILLY EORDEKIAN '75, BRIAN BECK '61#, CARLOS RODRIGUEZ '55#, CATHIE MOON BROWN '49 #, CHARLENE (PEAKE) SIMS '61, COLLETTE MARCELLIN '77 #, DANIEL ORR '68 #, DAVE HARRIS* '60 #, DOREEN ALBEE RIDDLE FRANK RIORDAN '46, DON L. JENKINS* '49 #, ELIZABETH ANN CARROLL SNYDER '48, ELOISE MARTINEZ GONZALES '70, FRANCINE HATHAWAY RIPPY '56, FRANK MCKENNA '73, GORDON CROCKER '50, HEIDI FREY GREENWALD '78, IVANNIA SOTO-HINMAN '94*#, JACK & ERLENE MELE*#, JAN SLATER LOPEZ WOOD '47 #, JEROME MONTGOMERY '52, JOAN MEISTER EVERETT, MD '60 #, JOAN McNEILLY NAY '47*, JOHN & ROBIN DEWITT '53, JOHN LAW DDS '70, JOHN L RICHARDSON '52, JOHN PEEL '74, JOYCE WALL SHILLING '56, LAURIE WELSH PEEL '80, LOUISE JOHNSON PASCALE '60, MAGGIE WILLIAMS VALDESPINO '60, MARJORIE JOHANA MOON GARRISON '48#, NADIA MOYA '99, PATRICIA & GEORGE ENGELAGE '54, PATRICIA BEHNKE BECK '61, PETER & LOUISE KEMPF '54*, RAY & JOAN DEZEMBER '52*, RICHARD '45 *# & BILLIE DEIHL '46, RICHARD LANTZ '48, RICHARD WELSH '74, RODERICK HILLS '48 *#, SANDY SANCHEZ THORSTENSON '73 #, STEPHANIE CUEVAS '08, STEPHEN KOELLE '70*, STUART GOTHOLD '52 #, SUSAN GARRETT ASTARITA '72, TOM AUGUST '45*#, TOM SEMINOFF '51, WALTER GARRETT '51, WILLIAM (BILL) PRENTISS '72, WILLIAM E. "BILL" COLE '66 #, YOSH NAKAMURA (FACULTY) # (* DECEASED # HALL OF FAME MEMBERS)

WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

All-Class Barbeque

OCTOBER 19, 2025 | 12PM



- 12:00 - 12:30 PM Entertainment by the WHS Band and WHS Cheer
12:30 - 1:30 PM BBQ Hamburgers and all the fixings
1:30 - 2:30 PM Campus Tour with WHS Alumni Historian Charles H. Bennett
3:00 - 4:00 PM Movie and Wurlitzer Organ performance in the Auditorium

TICKET INFO

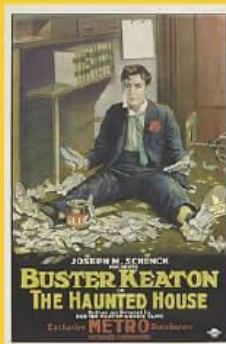
Adults	\$45.00
Children	\$30.00
Concert Only	\$15.00

Purchase Tickets at:

[whittierhighalumni.org/bbq/](https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/bbq/)

*Please indicate if you would like a plant-based burger for your meal.

Wurlitzer Organ Concert



Join us for a showing of
"The Haunted House"
accompanied by
Mark Herman
on the Mighty Wurlitzer!

3:00 PM
Vic Lopez Auditorium

Visit: <https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/bbq/>

Some More Ways to Support our WHS Cardinals:

Whittier High School Homecoming Football Game: October 17th, 2025 @ Pioneer H.S. Stadium 7:00pm

Wrestling Team: Donations Needed for New Time Clock. You can donate to the alumni association, marking financial support to student athletic teams and notate "WRESTLING TEAM" in the notes.

There will also be an opportunity to donate to them directly at the All Class BBQ on Oct 19th.

Hall of Fame 2026: Donations can be made towards Senior Scholarships.

Donations can be made at: <https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/donate/>



WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL
Alumni Association &
Educational Foundation

PO Box 65
Whittier, CA
90608-0065

President Rob West (Continued from Page 1)

such as the All Class BBQ on Sunday October 19th. Not only will you meet former classmates at the BBQ but you will also see current students from ASB, Band, and Cheer upholding our proud tradition of community service along with their faculty sponsors and administrative leaders. Get nostalgic about your days at WHS and join our reunion to rekindle those emotions that set you on the path to where you are today. Come share memories and give back to our grand old institution as it carries on our legacy of excellence and commitment to service.

Wistfully Yours,
Rob West '78,
Board President WHSAAEF

Principal's Message

Welcome back, alumni, to another exciting school year at Whittier High School! We are thrilled to share that our students have continued their tradition of excellence, with positive trends in our state and AP testing scores, as well as a strong graduation rate. As we kick off the new academic year, we're seeking your invaluable support for all our fall sports and extracurricular activities, which play a vital role in our students' well-rounded education. Your involvement, whether as a volunteer or a fan, is crucial to the success of these programs. Thank you for your continued generosity and unwavering support, which truly helps make Whittier High School a better place for all.

-Andres Favela, WHS Principal