



# DON BENITO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## School Leadership

**Principal:** Dr. Paula Chamberlain

## Facts About Our School

**Grades Served:** K -5

**Number of Students:** 575

**Sq. Footage:** >17,000 sq. ft.

**Year Built:** 1953

### School Hours:

Mon: 8:45 am- 1:30 pm

Tues-Fri: 8:45 am- 3:10 pm

## Awards

- Gold Ribbon School in 2016
- Title 1 Achievement Award in 2016
- Voted "Best Public School in Pasadena" by *Pasadena Weekly readers: 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018*
- A California Distinguished School in 2012
- Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) Honor Roll School in 2014 and 2017
- Reader's Choice Award for Silver Favorite among ALL public elementary schools in the San Gabriel Valley in 2015

## What Makes Our School Unique?

Don Benito offers a positive, engaging, and cooperative educational experience for our families. Our parents, community members, and staff continue to bring innovative ideas and opportunities to better prepare our children for the 21st Century. We offer enrichment classes during the school day in math, language arts, science, and the arts. Children receive individualized learning to meet their needs from our resource teachers, guidance counselor, and community volunteers. Our students have daily access to Chrome Books for research, keyboarding, and educational resources. Our school believes in fostering well-rounded children who are safe, respectful, responsible, and productive.

## What Does Our School Offer?

Our school culture is wholesome and family-centered. We have a beautifully diverse student body that we celebrate and embrace. We are a school with dedicated families and friends who volunteer countless hours to help our students succeed. Our students are exposed to hands-on science explorations, choral music/instrumental music lessons, technology skills, art integration, student leadership development, social-emotional learning, and after-school enrichment activities. Our children have multiple opportunities to apply and transfer their learning to the real world by attending at least 3 field trips per year. Above all, our students enjoy learning!

## Community and Business Partners

Pasadena Education Foundation, JPL, Carnegie Observatory, Upper Hastings Ranch Association, Mad Science Group Inc., Play Well, Boys and Girls Club, Pasadena Parks and Rec, and YMCA.

## Attendance Area and Open Enrollment

Don Benito Fundamental Elementary School is a school of residence with an attendance area of families who have the privilege of enrolling based on their home address. Visit [www.pusd.us](http://www.pusd.us) to see if your family resides in the attendance area. Families not residing in the school's area may apply through the District's annual Open Enrollment process. Please check [openenrollment.info](http://openenrollment.info) for more information, including how to apply online.



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## Before and After School Options

LEARNS, Pasadena Parks and Rec, and the YMCA provided before and after school care.

**Enrichment classes:** Art classes, Innovation Club, Mad Science, Drama Club, coding, and Chess Club.

## Parent Options

Parent-Teacher Association, Annual Fund, School Site Council, English Language Advisory Council, GATE Parent Council, African American Parent Council, Art Docents, and Science Docents.

## Club Options

Math Club, Chess Club, Innovation Club, Student Council, and Peace and Safety Patrol.

## Facts About Our School

**School Colors:** Blue and White

**School Mascot:** Bobcat

**School Motto:** Promoting College Readiness and the Academic Success of Every Student.

## Community Leadership

**School Board Representative:**  
Roy Boulghourjian

**City Council Representative:**  
Gene Masuda

## Top Reasons to Choose Don Benito

1. **We have a beautifully diverse student body.** Our students come from various ethnicities, cultures, and socio-economic backgrounds. Our students embrace and celebrate our differences.

2. **Our school culture is wholesome and “family-centered”.** Don Benito Bobcats look out for one another with PRIDE, ensuring that everyone embodies our school expectations to be safe, respectful, responsible, and productive. We have open lines of communication with our families and foster healthy partnerships. Our students, families, and staff genuinely have each other’s best interest at heart.

3. **We are a school with a lot of parent support and volunteers to help our students succeed.** For the past 2 years, we averaged 9,000 volunteer hours per year. In addition, for the past 3 years, our PTA averaged 500 members, the second highest percentage in the district.

4. **We have a dedicated staff committed to every child.** All our teachers are fully credentialed and the majority holds advanced degrees (Masters, Administrative credentials, etc.).

5. **Our students have access to rich learning experiences applicable to 21st Century expectations.**

Students in Kinder through 5th grade use Chromebooks daily. We have 1:1 Chromebook to student ratio in all grades.

Students learn about and use Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides.

Students attend Choral Music class once a week to learn about rhythm, beat, breathing control, etc.

Students have Instrumental Music as an elective in 4th and 5th grade. All third grade students are introduced to instrumental music with violin and recorders.

Students take art lessons from docents in our designated Art Studio.

Students explore science through hands-on experiments in our Science Center.

6. **Every grade level attends at least 3 field trips per year** to apply and transfer their learning to the real world.

7. **Student leadership development is one of our priorities.**

Student Council

Peace and Safety Patrol