



# MENTOR COACHES



## **Jon Pang**

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Lakeside Middle School, Irvine  
Irvine USD

- **Approximate Number of Students Enrolled:** 700
- **Grade Level(s):** 7-8
- **Years of NHD Experience:** 27
- **Number of Student Participants:** 100
- **School Contest in Place:** Yes
- **NHD-related Course(s) Offered During School Day:** No
- **Greatest Program Challenge(s):** Finishing projects /analysis
- **Greatest Program Resource/Asset:** Long history of success and school support
- **Greatest Strength as a Coach:** High expectations, hard work, and experience
- **Degree of Parent Support:** High

## **Jonathan Millers**

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Sierra Vista Middle School, Irvine  
Irvine USD

- **Approximate Number of Students Enrolled:** 875
- **Grade Level(s):** 7-8
- **Years of NHD Experience:** 15
- **Number of Student Participants:** 300
- **School Contest in Place:** Yes
- **NHD-related Course(s) Offered During School Day:** No
- **Greatest Program Challenge(s):** Students' understand the level/quality required to be successful
- **Greatest Program Resource/Asset:** Parents and Students
- **Greatest Strength as a Coach:** Attention to every detail
- **Degree of Parent Support:** High



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## Erik Peterson

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Seegerstrom Fundamental High School 9-12

SAUSD

- **Approximate Number of Students Enrolled:** 100+ (at school)
- **Grade Level(s):** 4-8
- **Years of NHD Experience:** 8
- **Number of Student Participants:** 45
- **School Contest in Place:** Yes, normally a showcase/contest takes place in January.
- **NHD-related Course(s) Offered During School Day:** My honors program requires students to complete an NHD project.
- **Greatest Program Challenge(s):** Students at my school and throughout SAUSD are not typically challenged to this extent. Therefore, there are a lot of foundational practices and principles that need to be in place in order for them to understand how to complete a competitive project. Procrastination is also a huge issue because they have always been able to leave other projects until the last minute.
- **Greatest Program Resource/Asset:** Former students come back to help students with their projects while completing their community service hours for high school.
- **Greatest Strength as a Coach:** Motivating students to work as hard as possible and opening students to the possibilities of their capabilities.
- **Degree of parent support:** Most parents who support my program do so through donations. I do not have parents who dedicate much of their time to my program. Additionally, very few of the students actually receive help on the projects from their parents at home. This leads to many extra hours spent at school on my part.

## Lana Sawalha

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Orange County School of the Arts/ OCDE

- **Approximate Number of Students Enrolled:** 2,300
- **Grade Level(s):** 8-12
- **Years of NHD Experience:** 7
- **Number of Student Participants:** 13-15
- **School Contest in Place:** No
- **NHD-related Course(s) Offered During School Day:** Yes, Office hours block 20 minutes a day and 1 lunch meeting a week.
- **Greatest Program Challenge(s):** Annotated Bibs and deadlines (students have too much other school work usually)
- **Greatest Program Resource/Asset:** Arts Program so projects are super fun, especially performances and exhibits
- **Greatest Strength as a Coach:** Meeting with students, constant feedback, and research skills
- **Degree of Parent Support:** None - I email them weekly and they help with transportation



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## Hector Gamboa

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Venado Middle School, Irvine

Irvine USD

- **Approximate Number of Students Enrolled:** 120
- **Grade Level(s):** 7th-8th
- **Years of NHD Experience:** 8
- **Number of Student Participants:** 100
- **School Contest in Place:** Yes we currently run a school competition at Venado Middle School prior to the county competition.
- **NHD-related Course(s) Offered During School Day:** Taught one year of an elective course our program is not built into the school day as an Honors requirement.
- **Greatest Program Challenge(s):** Funding to send students to the State competition.
- **Greatest Program Resource/Asset:** Our staff currently uses an NHD tracker that we critique and refine every year. This keeps students and teachers on the same page as they complete their projects independently.
- **Greatest Strength as a Coach:** I am a passionate teacher who believes that everyone can complete this rigorous assessment. I am always willing to meet and talk to my students about their projects and I actively help them procure meaningful primary and secondary literature which they could then use to mine for sources. My students understand that I am always there to help them through their projects, and I am a helpful sounding board to help their projects become more well-rounded.
- **Degree of Parent Support:** We have a moderate level of parent support. Parents are always willing to assist with donations. In addition because of our frequent check-ins with students, parents are always aware of deadlines and responsibilities of the program.