

THIS IS WHAT CONNECTED LOOKS LIKE

Meet Lomeli. She's an athlete and singer at Valley High School, but she isn't just about making plays and making music...

SHE WANTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Lomeli has faced some difficult challenges in her life, but instead of sitting on the sidelines, she decided to invest herself in the community. She believes in embracing people's differences, so she got involved in the Valley High School ASB student leadership and GSA.

As part of the Global Business Academy at Valley, she regularly partners with local businesses to develop her leadership and communication skills. She volunteers as support staff for the football team and serves as a mentor to elementary children through the "Big Brothers / Big Sisters" program. She currently represents the Valley High School students' point of view of to the Santa Ana Unified School District Governing Board.

At Valley, CONNECTED means embracing our differences and engaging in our community...

This is how it's done.

WE ARE VALLEY

**CONNECTED • LIFELONG LEARNERS • STRONG
CONECTADOS • APRENDIENDO SIEMPRE • FUERTE**

THIS IS WHAT STRONG LOOKS LIKE

Meet Alexander. He is a boxer and he plays football at Valley High School.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT MAKES HIM STRONG.

He asked himself, "Why can't I make a difference? Why can't I be the first one from my family to go to college? Why can't I change someone's life?" He decided to determine his own path and push through any obstacles that come his way. He joined "Joven Noble," a group whose aim is to build character and make a difference. He plans on doing whatever it takes to get a degree in World History. That's what makes Alex strong...

VALLEY STRONG

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Meet Ms. Sell.

She is a Dropout Prevention Specialist at Valley High School and a lifelong learner.

Born and raised in Santa Ana, Ms. Sell understands the unique challenges students who grow up here face. Like many students she works with, she grew up in a multi-family home with very little quiet space where she could concentrate on her studies. Even so, she decided she wanted to go to college. Her high school counselor ignored her request and set up her schedule with easy classes, but she wouldn't give in and told him,

“NO, I’m going to take college prep classes!”

She sat there, waited for him to change it, and has never looked back since. She got her degree while balancing work and motherhood and hopes to be a school administrator one day. Even now, when she starts to feel satisfied with where she is, the little girl inside her says, “No, you can do more. There’s always room for more!”

That’s what makes Ms. Sell a **LIFELONG LEARNER...**

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THIS IS WHAT STRONG LOOKS LIKE

Meet Elizabeth.

She is a highly involved Falcon community member who has contributed many long hours over the last eight years to help make Valley a better school community.

Elizabeth is originally from Oaxaca, Mexico. She is passionate about sharing her love for Mexican culture with younger generations, which is why she teaches the traditional Guelaguetza dance to students and created a local celebration for El Día del Niño (The Day of the Child). Five years ago, she discovered there was no celebration for El Día del Niño at the local elementary school, so she approached school leaders to try and get one started.

There were no resources available at the time and even though she encountered some language and cultural barriers, that didn't stop her from working within the system to get it started from the ground up. El Día del Niño has now become a yearly celebration that grows in popularity each year.

Elizabeth overcomes barriers and continues to work hard raising money and collaborating with community members to organize a variety of local events that make Valley a better place.

**IT'S DETERMINED
PEOPLE LIKE ELIZABETH
WHO MAKE VALLEY STRONG!**

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THIS IS WHAT A LIFELONG LEARNER LOOKS LIKE

Meet Luisa.

She is a parent volunteer at Valley High School. Luisa comes from an ancient, non-Spanish speaking culture and maintains ties with her past by creating and teaching the ancient forms of art.

Her natural curiosity is what originally brought her from Mexico to America. She wanted to learn for herself what it was all about because...

SHE ABSOLUTELY LOVES LEARNING NEW THINGS.

Luisa has two children who attend Valley, and because she values education she is very involved in doing everything she can to help them succeed. Being a part of the Valley community has given her many opportunities to learn new things, as well as teach what she has learned to others. She regularly attends the free parenting programs and educational workshops offered at Valley out of a desire to constantly improve herself.

That's what makes Luisa
a perfect example of a
LIFELONG LEARNER!

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THIS IS WHAT CONNECTED LOOKS LIKE

Meet Honorina.

She is a longtime parent volunteer at Valley High School. As a mother of three, she was motivated to move her family from Mexico to Santa Ana to provide a safer environment and better educational opportunities for her kids. "Children are our future and I want to provide a safe place, not just for my kids, but ALL kids in our community to become educated and go to college."

"If I could just help one kid be successful and give back to the community, it would all be worth whatever time I put in helping out."

Although Honorina didn't have the opportunity to go to high school or college herself, she wants to do everything she can do to help her kids and other students get there. She also wants to finish school herself and work in computers. Her oldest son graduated from Valley High School last year and is currently enrolled at Orange Coast Community College. Her hard work, positive energy, and dedication to all students is a true example of what it means to be CONNECTED.

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