



# school bulletin

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

November 1, 2013

## Students Here Fitter Than County, State

Higher percentages of students in the Long Beach Unified School District are passing state physical fitness exams than their counterparts in Los Angeles County and the State of California.

Meeting five of the state exam's six Healthy Fitness Zone requirements is considered to be a passing score. Using this yardstick, LBUSD physical fitness scores surpass those of Los Angeles County at all grade levels tested. LBUSD's scores also surpass the state's scores in all but one grade level tested, missing the state average in seventh grade by less than one

### State Physical Fitness Exam % of Students Passing 2012-13\*

| Grade | LBUSD | L.A. County | State |
|-------|-------|-------------|-------|
| 5     | 49.6  | 45.4        | 48.6  |
| 7     | 54.6  | 50.9        | 55.3  |
| 9     | 62.0  | 55.5        | 59.5  |

\* The state considers meeting five of six Healthy Fitness Zones to be a passing score.

percentage point.

LBUSD's competitive performance comes despite the school district's more challenging demographics. About 70 percent of students here live in poverty, compared to 57.5 percent statewide.

Physical fitness scores here increased most significantly in ninth grade, with the passage rate up 5 percentage points over the prior year. LBUSD's curriculum staff includes a physical education curriculum leader who has helped teachers to focus more intently over the past year on offering students three alternatives for passing the aerobic capacity portion of the state exam: a one-mile run, a "pacer test" involving a series of increasingly quick 20-meter runs, and a walk test that takes into account one-mile time, heart rate and weight.

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## Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for Long Beach Unified School District health benefits is Nov. 1 to 30.

During open enrollment, employees may change current benefits, add or remove dependents from benefit plans, or enroll in a flexible spending account (FSA) for next year.

An enrollment packet is being mailed to each employee's home address. Learn more under Open Enrollment in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## CAMS May Be Replicated in East Long Beach

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science, home of the highest SAT scores in the state and winner of numerous national honors, may be replicated in East Long Beach as part of a proposal to phase out Hill Classical Middle School over the next three years.

Long Beach Unified School District staff will recommend the plan to the Board of Education during the board's next regular meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5 at the LBUSD Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach. At this meeting, staff will provide the school board an overview of the proposal, and the school district will accept public input.

Pending the school board's approval, LBUSD would gradually phase out Hill, which is a traditional middle school offering grades six through eight. A small high school modeled after CAMS would instead be phased in one grade at a time, eventually offering grades nine to 12.

CAMS currently exists on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills in Carson, and that program would remain intact. The popular program regularly receives applications from twice as many qualified applicants as the school can accept, so replicating CAMS at Hill would help to meet strong demand among students and parents. Hill is located at 1100 Iroquois Ave., in between Studebaker Road and California State Long Beach. The location would allow for close partnerships between the high school and the university.

Pending approval, Hill would no longer accept sixth graders in fall of 2014. In the following year, or 2015-16, Hill would no longer accept sixth or seventh graders, and the school would simultaneously phase in a group of ninth graders. By 2016-17, there would be no more middle grades (6-8) at the school.

The proposal to phase out Hill is due to declining enrollment at Hill and districtwide,

and because the school district is implementing a larger Facility Master Plan that calls for the creation of several smaller high schools. Of Hill's approximately 800 students, only about 45 live in the Hill neighborhood, and the school population has decreased by more than 400 students over the past six years. Like CAMS in Carson, the new high school would accommodate between 600 and 800 students.

The Facility Master Plan, developed with significant input from parents and others in the community, is helping to guide the expenditure of Measure K school bonds that were approved by local voters in 2008.

Students who remain at Hill during the phase-out period would continue to be

(Continued on next page)

## UC Irvine Reaches Out to Jordan High

Officials from the University of California Irvine spent a day at Jordan High School this week delivering a clear message to hundreds of students: there is a place for you in the UC system.

Presenting to 600 students in the auditorium were UCI Vice Chancellor Thomas Parham, UCI Admissions Director Patricia Morales, Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser and others.

Students also gathered at Jordan's Media Center to learn about writing personal statements for UC applications.

The visit by university officials was part of Achieve UC, a systemwide effort that brings UC leaders and admissions counselors into high schools around the state to help inspire students to pursue higher education.

**SCENIC ROUTE –** Students and teachers from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science revised an interpretive trail guide as part of the recent Sequoia Forestry Challenge. This year was the first time CAMS competed, and the school earned fourth place out of 12 teams. **Story on next page.**





**BAND SPECTACULAR** – The 29th Annual Long Beach Unified School District High School Band Spectacular takes place 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 at the Cabrillo High School stadium. Marching bands from Cabrillo, Jordan, Lakewood, Millikan, Poly and Wilson high schools will present their award-winning half-time shows. The event will feature performances by the Cabrillo Panjamas Steel Drum Band and the Long Beach City College Viking Show Band. The evening culminates with a special performance of the combined bands. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door.

## Names in the News

Kettering Elementary School's Most Inspiring Student, third grader **Sydney Waldrop**, was featured recently on a limited edition cover wrap of People Magazine as part of a special arrangement with Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach. Doctors found a golf-ball sized cancerous tumor wrapped around the 8-year-old's spine. Dr. **Theodore Zwerdling** at the Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Center diagnosed Sydney with a rare cancer, Langerhans cell sarcoma. Neurosurgeon Dr. **Ramin Javahery** removed the tumor and reconstructed Sydney's spine, allowing her to begin a positive recovery.

## In Memoriam

**George Wilson**  
former teacher  
Sept. 9, 2013

**Raymie Goldsmith**  
former teacher  
Oct. 30, 2013

## • Hill Middle School May Convert to CAMS

(Continued from first page) provided with their core subject area classes and electives, minimizing the impact of the phase-out period. The Rogers Middle School attendance boundaries would expand to include the Kettering/Hill neighborhood, and the school choice process would still allow for attendance at other middle and K-8 schools in the district.

Like other LBUSD high schools such as McBride, CAMS and Renaissance, which have no attendance boundaries, the new high school would draw students from throughout the school district. The new school also would require students to fill out a supplemental application.

Students at CAMS have the top SAT scores in the state, according to a ranking of America's Best High Schools released in May by Newsweek. CAMS also boasts the fourth highest SAT scores in the nation, according to the ranking. CAMS students on average scored 2,168 on the SAT, out of a possible score of 2,400.

CAMS has repeatedly earned both the California Distinguished School Award and the National Blue Ribbon Award. U.S. News and World Report, The Washington Post and Newsweek all named CAMS among America's top high schools this year. The Class of 2013 at CAMS earned \$13.5 million in scholarships.

## Forest Trail Project Challenges Students

Seven students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science recently participated in the 2013 Sequoia Forestry Challenge. The CAMS students competed among 50 high school students from eight schools in central and southern California. The event was held at the Clemmie Gill School of Science and Conservation, near Springville, the gateway to the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

This year was the first time CAMS participated, and their top team placed fourth out of 12 teams.

Students revised an interpretive trail guide for the one-mile Forest Information Trail at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest. After spending a day hiking the trail to collect data and confer with the State Forest staff, students created their own versions of the trail guide, providing future hikers with information on tree species, animal habitats, evidence of past human activities, and recent harvest activity.

During the challenge, teams of students also completed field training, followed by a field test, to assess their technical forestry knowledge. They learned, for example, how to quickly estimate tree height, and how to identify trees by their leaves or needles.

"The Forestry Challenge was an incredible chance for students to learn practical applications of classroom materials, and to learn entirely new skills," said CAMS teacher Matt Gold.

"The scenery was gorgeous and the foresters were so kind and informative," said Makaylah Respicio, a senior at CAMS. "This experience is one we are definitely never going to forget."

Learn more at [forestrychallenge.org](http://forestrychallenge.org).

## Credential Current?

Certificated employees are required to keep their credentials and permits current at all times. The State of California does not allow a single minute of service without possessing a valid credential or permit. If employees allow a credential or permit to expire, or if they do not provide the state with evidence of meeting renewal requirements, they cannot remain in paid status in any California public school district.

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing requires all clear and professional credential holders to renew their credentials online. The online renewal process requires payment by VISA or MasterCard. The renewal web page is [ctc.ca.gov](http://ctc.ca.gov). Click on "Online Services for Educators."

The renewal fee is \$70, and the renewal process may be completed as early as one year in advance of the credential expiration date.

Questions about credentials may be directed to a credential services specialist at ext. 8208.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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## • Physical Fitness

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The result of these efforts in ninth grade was a 62.1 percent passage rate on the aerobic capacity portion, up 3.9 points over the prior year. Ninth graders also saw significant improvements in body composition (body mass index), upper body strength and flexibility.

In seventh grade, LBUSD's passage rate of 54.6 percent represents a 0.4 percentage point increase over last year, while the fifth grade passage rate of 49.6 percent represents about a 2-point drop compared to the prior year. Despite the slight decline in fifth grade scores here, these students still outperformed their peers countywide and statewide.

The incentive for students to pass the state physical fitness test increases in high school. Students who pass five out of six Healthy Fitness Zones can earn exemption from physical education classes in their junior and senior years, allowing these students to take elective classes instead. Many students who earn the exemption, however, still opt to take P.E. electives such as yoga, dance, basketball, soccer and weight training.

Go to <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest> for full results.