



school bulletin

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

March 6, 2015

Big Interest in Smaller High Schools

Two of the Long Beach Unified School District's newest and smallest high schools have received more applicants than they can accommodate, with parents and students showing keen interest in the specialized programs these schools offer.

McBride High School, which opened its brand new campus in 2013, and the Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science, which opens this fall, both accept applicants from throughout the school district and beyond. The two schools do not have specific attendance boundaries.

McBride received 947 applications and accepted 253 students. The school offers three thematic pathways that complement a college prep curriculum, including Engineering, Health and Medical, and Public Services and Forensics. The three pathways have attracted significant numbers of students from outside the school district. The Public Services and Forensics pathway accepted 21 percent of its students from outside LBUSD for next fall, while 13 percent of students accepted to the Health and Medical pathway came from outside the school district. About 12 percent of students accepted to McBride's Engineering pathway are from outside LBUSD.

Specialized programs at the school district's large, comprehensive high schools continue to

hold their own, with many of those programs receiving two or three times the number of applicants they can accommodate. But the newer and smaller high schools, which resulted from community input during the development of a districtwide Facility Master Plan, are proving to be another popular option.

"We want to give parents and students as many high-quality choices as possible when it comes to selecting a school," LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser said. "We're pleased that families are taking full advantage of these new schools and additional career pathways that will prepare students for
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Number of AP Tests Up 41% in Two Years

Students in the Long Beach Unified School District signed up for more than 10,000 Advanced Placement college-level exams by last week's deadline, an increase of more than 41 percent over the last two years. The significant increase comes after concerted efforts to increase access to AP courses and tests.

More than 5,200 students signed up for at least one exam this year. That's about 28 percent more students than two years ago. Individual students often take multiple exams, which are offered in various subject areas.
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Los Cerritos Up for National Green Ribbon

Los Cerritos Elementary School is among three public schools statewide nominated by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson for this year's national Green Ribbon Awards. The awards, given by the U.S. Department of Education, recognize exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and provide effective environmental education.

Also nominated under the school district

category was the El Monte Union High School District. Marin Country Day School, a private school in Marin County, also earned a Green Ribbon nomination from Torlakson.

The nominees were announced during a news conference at the El Monte district, where Torlakson also recognized the nominees as "Green Achievers," the highest honor in California's Green Ribbon awards program.

An Urban Farmyard at Los Cerritos has been cited by the California School Gardens Network as a model school garden and is a designated Wildlife Habitat and Monarch Butterfly Way Station. The garden is complemented by after school programs focused on environmental awareness, including Cool the Earth, Roots & Shoots, and Green Team. A comprehensive Safe Routes to School program includes Walk-to-School Wednesday, Walking School Bus and Bike-Friendly Friday activities.

The U.S. Department of Education will confirm state nominees on Earth Day, April 22, 2015. Los Cerritos would be the fifth school in the Long Beach Unified School District to earn the national award. Hughes, Longfellow, Lowell and Twain schools have earned Green Ribbon honors.

Hundreds Participate in LBUSD Town Hall

More than 600 students, parents and other community members attended the Long Beach Unified School District's first-ever Students of Color "Town Hall" Meeting last Saturday at Cabrillo High School. The event, part of a partnership with the White House and other large school districts, provided dozens of workshops and important information on helping to prepare all students for success in college and careers.

"It was a great day for our students and parents" said Board of Education Vice President Felton Williams, who chaired the event committee. "To see the high turnout and such an enthusiastic, appreciative response from parents and students was truly encouraging and uplifting for everyone involved."

In July, President Barack Obama announced that Long Beach and other members of the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of the nation's largest school systems, would pledge to improve academic achievement for minority youth. Williams, who is secretary/treasurer of the Council, represented LBUSD at the White House event. He will continue to work with the planning committee for last Saturday's event to follow up on survey feedback from event participants.

Parent Mary Jane Tapia was among many parents who expressed thanks for the event.

"I wanted to tell you that I really appreciated the Students of Color Town Hall meeting."

she wrote in an email to LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "It was nice to walk into an enthused group of students cheering me on. The speakers were inspiring, especially the high school students who shared their experiences. The breakout sessions were engaging and informative, and each presenter took their time to answer questions from me and the audience... As an alum of LBUSD schools, and having worked with many local school districts, I can attest that LBUSD is definitely the best school district ever!"

USA TODAY –
Two USA Today videos feature innovative work-based instruction that teaches job skills to high school students from Cabrillo, CAMS and Poly. Pictured is a Long Beach Memorial simulation lab. **Story on next page.**



BELLA FUENTES
SENIOR, JUAN RODRIGUEZ CABRILLO H.S., LONG BEACH, CA



• AP Exams

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The school district is providing students greater access to AP exams by covering much of the cost for families. AP exams cost \$89 each, but this school year students are paying only \$5 per exam for an unlimited number of exams. For each exam, students deposit \$15 and receive a \$10 rebate once the exam is taken. This means that a student who takes five AP exams pays \$25 instead of \$445.

Last year, LBUSD covered the cost of at least two AP exams for all high school seniors, while seniors at Jordan and Cabrillo high schools were offered an unlimited number of free AP exams. With the expansion of the program this year, the school district provided convenient online registration for the tests.

Funding is made possible through the state's Local Control Funding Formula, or LCF, proposed by California Gov. Jerry Brown and approved by the state Legislature in 2013. The LCF provides greater flexibility as to how certain state funds are used by local schools.

Parents especially appreciate AP courses because their children can earn college credit while still in high school, saving thousands of dollars in tuition. Many LBUSD students earn an entire year of college credit before leaving high school.

Next year the school district will provide further support by paying for the PSAT exam for all eighth through tenth graders, and by paying for the SAT exam for all eleventh graders. High schools plan to add more than 50 sections of AP classes next school year.

The school district has seen steady, significant gains in AP course enrollment and test registration over the past decade. Last year, the Washington Post listed seven LBUSD high schools among the nation's most challenging high schools. The 2014 rankings included schools that surpassed 91 percent of other high schools in America, in terms of their ability to offer rigorous college prep courses.

• Small High Schools

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success in college and the working world."

Though the Sato Academy has yet to open, it has already received more than enough applications for its initial freshman class of about 175 students, who will start classes this fall. Sato will be located at the Hill Classical Middle School site near Cal State Long Beach. The Sato program is modeled after the nationally recognized California Academy of Mathematics and Science, which is run by LBUSD on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills. Because CAMS regularly receives twice as many applicants as the school can accommodate, the program is being replicated to meet high demand.

The new Sato Academy also has attracted interest from beyond the school district, with about 13 percent of the inaugural class of ninth graders coming from outside LBUSD.

The school district has planned for additional small, thematic high schools to open in the coming years, including Browning High School at 2180 Obispo Ave. in Long Beach, near Signal Hill. Scheduled to open in fall 2016, Browning will offer a college prep curriculum along with a career pathway focused on tourism, recreation, hospitality and people movement.

USA Today Features Cabrillo, CAMS, Poly

Two recent USA Today videos feature innovative work-based instruction that teaches job skills to high school students from Cabrillo, Poly and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science.

One of the videos, "Not Your Parents' Tech Ed," also features U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan talking about the importance of using such hands-on instruction to help students understand the relevance of what they're learning in class.

The "Not Your Parents' Tech Ed" video shows the hospital simulation class at Long Beach Memorial, where students from health pathways at Cabrillo and Poly high schools are seen interacting with working professionals and practicing their skills on life-like mannequins that groan and answer questions.

The other video, "Where the Jobs Are: Realistic Experience Key to Engineering Class Project," features teacher Joseph Carpenter's

Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services is accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2015-16 school year. Refer to the Teachers Association of Long Beach agreement, Article VIII, for guidelines.

Requests for Transfer forms are available at schools and the TALB office, and can be downloaded at lbschools.net under Human Resource Services in the A-Z index (then click on For Current Employees). Computers are available for use in the HRS lobby.

Teachers may submit requests for transfer whether or not that position appears as a vacancy. Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. The deadline to apply for transfers is Friday, May 1. For more information call ext. 8635.

In Memoriam

Michael Wallace
custodian, Jefferson
Feb. 24, 2015

Paula Davis
speech and language assistant, Willows
Feb. 26, 2015

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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high-tech engineering class, where students engage in a robotics and drone-building project. Students in the class present their projects to panels of industry experts from leading defense firms such as Northrop Grumman and Raytheon.

USA Today ranks among the three largest newspapers in the nation. Find links to the two videos at lbschools.net under the "USA Today Features Cabrillo, CAMS, Poly" headline.

Teacher of the Year

The Los Angeles County Office of Education is sponsoring the 2015-16 Teacher of the Year Program, which is open to fully credentialed teachers from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. This includes library media teachers who collaboratively teach with classroom teachers, and adult school teachers who provide instruction in the same curriculum as those who teach in the elementary or secondary grades. Instructors who have administrative responsibilities are also eligible, but only if teaching is their primary responsibility.

Contact Edward Sigur IV in the Professional Development Center at ext. 2900 or esigur@lbschools.net to nominate a teacher or to request an application. Submissions are due Wednesday, April 15.

Names in the News

Former Board of Education President **Bobbie Smith** was featured in a recent K-CAL/CBS news segment honoring Smith as part of Black History Month. For the segment, Smith visited her namesake school and spoke with students. Smith also spoke at a recent school assembly regarding Black History Month at Marshall Academy of the Arts. In December, Smith joined Long Beach Unified School District officials and the student body of Bobbie Smith Elementary School for the official naming of the school, which was formerly Burnett Elementary School.

Cubberley K-8 School sixth grader **Jacob Bower** has qualified to compete in the state level competition of the National Geographic Bee. The geography contest will be held Friday, March 27 at Cal State Fresno. A winner from each state will advance to the national competition. For more information, visit nationalgeographic.com/geobee.

Students from Poly High School earned high honors for their documentaries in the national C-SPAN StudentCam competition. Eleventh grader **Destin Bigsby** won second place overall and \$1,500 for "Guns in America." Three third-prize teams each earned \$750: **Thomas Flemming** for "Big Money, Big Problems;" **Bennett McCarthy**, **Max Mosack** and **Sam Leonard** for "Domestic Drone;" and **Jacqueline Toyama**, **Chelsea Mai** and **Katie Pream** for "GMOs Help the World Grow." Two honorable mention teams each earned \$250: **Eric Hatch**, **Theo Lee** and **Stanly Chung** for "The Gang Solves the Water Crisis;" and **Evan Pickell** and **Joanna Stringer** for "Breaking the Wall - Restoring the Shore."

The students were advised by economics and government teacher **Jeff Montooth**. Go to studentcam.org/winners15.htm for more information.