



school bulletin

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

May 7, 2021

Graduation Schedule

The Long Beach Unified School District will award diplomas to about 5,280 students at in-person ceremonies from June 9 to June 17. The estimated numbers of graduates at each school are: 935 at Poly/PAAL; 865 at Wilson; 856 at Millikan; 648 at Lakewood; 449 at Cabrillo; 440 at EPHS; 407 at Jordan; 159 at CAMS; 154 at McBride; 87 at Browning; 84 at Sato; 79 at Renaissance; 76 at Reid; 34 at Avalon; and seven at Beach. Following is the schedule:

Wednesday, June 9

- Sato, 4 p.m., at Sato
- CAMS, 6 p.m., Dignity Health Tennis Stadium

Thursday, June 10

- Long Beach School for Adults, 6 p.m., Long Beach Learning Center

Monday, June 14

- Wilson, 5 p.m., Veterans Stadium

Tuesday, June 15

- Renaissance, 11 a.m. at Renaissance
- Lakewood, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium
- Millikan, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium

Wednesday, June 16

- Beach and Reid, 11 a.m., Long Beach Learning Center
- Browning, 2 p.m., at Browning
- Jordan, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium
- Avalon, 4 p.m., Island Company Casino
- McBride, 5 p.m., at McBride (East Field)
- Cabrillo, 5:30 p.m., Cabrillo Stadium
- Poly/PAAL, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium

Thursday, June 17

- EPHS, 11 a.m., Cabrillo Stadium

3 Teacher Librarians Of the Year Named

The Long Beach School Librarians Association recently announced three Teacher Librarians of the Year for 2020-21. High school teacher librarian Gail Ashbrooke and middle school teacher librarians Nina Jackson and Robyn Justus earned the awards. They have served the Long Beach Unified School District for a combined 75 years.

Ashbrooke is retiring as head librarian at Cabrillo High School after 17 years



Ashbrooke

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HIGHLY RANKED – Past graduates of the California Academy of Mathematics and Science celebrate commencement. CAMS and other local schools ranked highly on U.S. News and World Report's newest list of America's Best High Schools.



13 High Schools Make U.S. News Ranking

Thirteen high schools in the Long Beach Unified School District earned rankings on U.S. News and World Report's list of America's 2021 Best High Schools. The California Academy of Mathematics and Science topped the LBUSD list, placing third among California schools, 15th nationally among magnet programs and 32nd overall in the national public high school rankings.

Also earning their place on the rankings were Avalon, Cabrillo, Educational Partnership High School, Jordan, Lakewood, McBride, Millikan, Poly, Reid, Renaissance, Sato and Wilson schools. Sato and McBride, two of Long Beach's newest high schools, made California's top 100, with Sato ranked 11th, and McBride ranked 36th.

A total of 17,800 public high schools out of a review of nearly 24,000 in all 50 states and the District of Columbia were

ranked by U.S. News. This year's rankings were based on data from the 2018-19 school year and were not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

All schools were ranked on six indicators of school quality. The indicators include college readiness based on the proportions of 12th graders who took and passed Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate exams; college curriculum breadth; math and reading proficiency based on state tests, and whether that performance exceeded expectations given the school's proportion of historically underserved students; underserved student performance based on how Black, Hispanic and low-income students performed on state assessments compared with those who are not underserved in the state; and four-year graduation rates.

For the complete list, visit [usnews.com](https://www.usnews.com).

State Honors LBUSD Attendance Practices

The Long Beach Unified School District is one of 20 honorees designated as models of attendance improvement by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

The Model School Attendance Review Boards (SARB) Award honors school systems that demonstrate innovative and effective practices to reduce absenteeism. This year's honor holds greater significance after the disruption of in-person attendance due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2019-20 school year. The winners include 19 school districts and one county office of education.

"These honorees created exemplary plans and worked hard to follow through on them to help students stay engaged in their education, all during the unprecedented closure of our schools due to a global pandemic," Thurmond said. "Many of these same great attendance strategies will also be crucial for student

success as even more schools reopen for safe in-person attendance."

LBUSD and its model SARB chairperson Claudia Sosa-Valderrama were recognized for focusing on quality interactions with families and students to promote improved distance learning attendance. Sosa-Valderrama is director of Student Support Services.

The district's SARB members, who are part of the LBUSD Student Support Services department, looked at students' and families' unique needs and provided personalized support to remove attendance barriers.

The school district implemented several strategies such as assigning a staff member to follow up with each referred family to provide materials, work assignments and links to community resources. The staff also connected with community partners to ensure that families have access to timely

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• Librarians

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with the district. She began as a library media assistant at McKinley Elementary School in 1999. She also served as media assistant at Keller, Alvarado, Harte, Lafayette, Twain, Jordan Plus and PAAL. In 2006, she became the teacher librarian at Butler, and then at Muir and Keller the following year. In 2014, she was the teacher librarian at Jordan Plus and PAAL, and she became the head teacher librarian at Cabrillo in 2017. As a high school teacher librarian, she has received \$26,000 in funding for library computers and books from grants and fundraisers. Her efforts have helped increase book circulation. She is also a reference librarian and adjunct instructor at Long Beach City College.

Nina Jackson, a National Board Certified Teacher Librarian, has been on the California School Library Association state board since 2005 and will lead as state president next year. Locally, Jackson is the LBSLA president and has been the teacher librarian at Franklin since 1995. She has also served as the teacher librarian at Tincher K-8 school and Hill Middle School (now Sato High School).



Jackson

Robyn Justus began her career with LBUSD as a teacher librarian 32 years ago at Rogers Middle School, where she is currently assigned. She also works at Bancroft Middle School, where she has served for ten years. She has been the advisor to the Rogers Student Council for more than 25 years. For almost 20 years, she has accompanied eighth grade students on trips to Washington D.C. and New York City, as well as other student groups to Florida, Iceland, Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands. She is the recipient of the PTA Honorary Service Award and the Golden Oak Award.



Justus

Student Art Exhibit

After a year of closure, the Long Beach Museum of Art has reopened with a high school art exhibition featuring more than 90 art pieces by Long Beach Unified School District students.

The theme of the exhibit, "Earth, Every Day," was part of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2020. The installation was scheduled to open shortly after the announcement of mandated closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so all student artwork remained behind closed doors for a year.

The student art consists of a variety of 2-D and 3-D media, including a video installation of a collaborative animation project completed by Wilson students.

The exhibit is open to the public through May 16. Visitors are required to wear a mask at all times and maintain a distance of at least six feet from others. Advance tickets are required. For reservations, visit lbma.org/visit.

Farm to School Grant Provides \$500,000

The Long Beach Unified School District is the recipient of a \$500,000 grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Farm to Fork.

The grant is part of a larger \$8.5 million donation to 60 farm to school projects throughout the state of California via the 2021 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program.

The grant program supports local and regional farm to school projects that promote nutrition education, sustainable food production and procurement and high-quality student engagement through experiential learning.

"Nutrition Services is thrilled to take on this exciting opportunity," said LBUSD Administrative Dietitian Kelly Moffa. "We cannot wait to bring more California produce into our cafeterias, as well as support our school garden programs with funding and resources."

The Farm to School programs focus on creating a vital way to improve the health and well-being of California

• Attendance Honor

(Continued from first page)

and quality services.

All 2021 Model SARB Award winners implemented Learning Continuity and Attendance Plans that focused on four approaches to meet the needs of students during distance learning. These approaches included shifting staff roles and responsibilities to meet the needs of distance learning students; supporting virtual attendance of pupils with unique needs; providing for the mental health and well-being of students during distance learning; and pupil and family engagement and outreach.

The Model SARBs will serve as mentors to other school districts, and help them to develop their own strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism.

Dates to Remember

June

1-30	Great Outdoors Month
12	Anne Frank's Birthday
14	Flag Day
16	Spring Semester Ends
17	Last Day for Teachers
18	Anniversary of the First American Woman in Space
20	First Day of Summer
20	Father's Day
27	Helen Keller's Birthday

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

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schoolchildren through integrated nutrition education and healthy food access.

Funded by the Budget Act of 2020, the CDFA established the Farm to School Grant Program to support California farmers and expand healthy food access by providing schools with funds to establish programs that promote local and California grown food procurement and use in school meals. The program also supports food and agriculture education in classrooms and cafeterias through learning opportunities in school gardens, on farms and through other culinary and agricultural pathways.

LB Rotary Donates Books and Supplies

The Long Beach Rotary recently donated funds to help create more than 500 book and supply bags for the students at the Long Beach Unified School District's Child Development Centers. The donation is part of the club's annual tradition, which provides funds to help the CDCs purchase books for preschool students to take home and build their own home libraries.

On April 27, the Long Beach Rotary and CDC at Addams Elementary School held a small outdoor event for nearly 55 preschool students. During the event, the students received their gift bags and were read stories by the Long Beach Rotarians. The remaining bags will be delivered to all CDC sites by the Rotarians in the coming weeks.

Each bag is filled with two books and a variety of craft supplies such as scissors, glue, crayons, watercolor paint sets, markers, sidewalk chalk, construction paper and playdough.

In Memoriam

Janice Law
former teacher
November 6, 2020

Forrest Joiner
former campus security officer
March 8, 2021

Kermit Singleton
heavy truck driver
March 15, 2021

Hazel Culler
former teacher
March 26, 2021

Cherry Bramlett
former teacher
March 27, 2021

Q Joy Tracy
former food service supervisor
April 1, 2021

Phyllis Goodrich
former teacher
April 5, 2021