



February 14, 2014

Jordan to Boost Rigor With APEX

Jordan High School will offer a new Academic Path to Excellence (APEX) program beginning with the freshman class of 2014, requiring students to take seven classes a day and at least four Advanced Placement courses before graduation.

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education at last week's regular meeting considered a recommendation to replace Jordan's International Baccalaureate (IB) program with the new APEX program. After hearing public input, the board adopted a revised recommendation to run IB and APEX concurrently for one year.

In 2015, the school board will revisit the matter to determine whether IB is attracting enough students to remain intact, though eleventh graders in the IB program would still be allowed to finish their coursework for an IB diploma as seniors.

The addition of the APEX program is part of a comprehensive school improvement effort at Jordan, including a \$135 million renovation of the campus that started this year, and the addition of specialized academic programs in recent years. Jordan's graduation rate of 85.1 percent last year was up 8.1 percent in just one year and now far surpasses the state average of 78.9 percent.

Lindbergh to Become Science, Tech School

Lindbergh Middle School will be renamed Lindbergh STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Academy effective August. The school will serve as a pathway for students interested in careers in the sciences.

Students will apply for admission to the program and will take classes in robotics, engineering, space and flight, engineering and medicine.

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education approved the new program at last week's public meeting.

Board Hears Funding Recommendations

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education heard draft policy recommendations this week from a diverse committee of parents, students, employees and community representatives regarding how best to implement the state's new Local Control Funding Formula for schools.

Gov. Jerry Brown and the state Legislature
(Continued on next page)

Lowell, Twain Up for National Green Ribbon

Lowell and Twain elementary schools are the only individual 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.

Nominated under the school district category was the Encinitas Union Elementary School District. San Domenico School, a private school in Marin County, also earned a Green Ribbon nomination from Torlakson.

The nominees were announced during a ceremony at Ocean Knoll Elementary School in Encinitas, where Twain and Lowell principals and parents attended.

"We are honored and thrilled," said Lowell parent and Green Team Co-Chair Holland Brown. "At Lowell, the Green Team is everyone. We look forward to celebrating with our entire Community Green Team, to learning new ideas from these other great schools, and to sharing our lessons learned with others."

The U.S. Department of Education will confirm the national award winners on Earth Day, April 22.

Green Ribbon Schools demonstrate exemplary achievement in reducing environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability literacy, incorporating science, technology, engineering and mathematics education (STEM), civic skills, and green career pathways.

"I am proud to recognize these outstanding

School for Adults Marks 100 Years

The Long Beach School for Adults marked its 100th anniversary recently with a Saturday celebration at the school. Teachers, administrators and former students gathered in the school's auditorium to share memories and success stories.

"We're celebrating a rich history of providing a multitude of services to thousands of students in this community," said Principal Matt Saldana. "Despite the state budget crisis and the many obstacles faced, the program has continued because of dedicated people in the community and the valued teachers."

Founded in 1913 as part of the Long Beach Unified School District, the School for Adults is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. LBSA offers English as a Second Language Language courses, job skills courses, Family Literacy, and GED testing and preparation.

schools and district for their comprehensive efforts to green their campuses, their communities, and our state," Torlakson said. "Together with efficient facilities and good health practices, a strong ecoliteracy education develops students into citizens who will be lifelong stewards of our environment."

At Lowell, every child participates in the Learning Garden, totaling 8,000 instructional hours per year. Student Green Team members divert more than 28,000 gallons of classroom recyclables annually from the trash. Car Free Fridays, promoted and measured by the Student Council, eliminate more than 150 pounds of carbon dioxide per week and encourage exercise. Fifty-five percent of students walk or bike to school, and students take more than 15 walking field trips each year. Lowell received Energy Star certification in 2012 with a score of 98.

Twain parent and Green Team Founder Lisa McCarthy was the lead applicant for her school's award, describing how parents and Green Team students volunteer daily to help divert trash, reducing lunchtime waste by 85 percent.

The Twain Green Team engages 35 percent of eligible students (grades 2-5) as active members, but reaches the entire school community. A monthly "Bottles & Cans Day" earns the school \$2,500 annually in recycling income.

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EDUCATION CELEBRATION – The Long Beach Unified School District's recent Education Celebration at McBride High School, where each of the district's elementary, middle and K-8 schools provided information about their programs, attracted a record 5,400 people. Here, Rogers Middle School Assistant Principal Scott Fleming shares information while wearing a Superman cape, celebrating the high academic standards at the school. *Photo courtesy of the Long Beach Register.*

• Draft LCFF Policy Recommendations

(Continued from first page)

approved the LCFF last year. Since then, LBUSD has embarked on a sweeping effort to engage the community in shaping its Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The school district received more than 2,700 survey responses to its initial outreach, and its LCAP committee – composed of 66 people from all walks of life – has met four times to highlight the state's eight priorities and examine expenditures and data.

The draft recommendations will continue to be refined with input from the committee and other members of the public before the school board considers the formal plan in June.

Following are the draft recommendations:

How can LBUSD help more students to attend school regularly?

- Expand counseling, social work and other support services that comprehensively address the needs of students.
- Provide support for teachers so that they can personalize their teaching and ultimately improve their relationships with students.
- Identify resources that can help to reinstate transportation services.

How can LBUSD help more students to do well in their classes?

- Hire additional teachers and other staff members such as counselors, psychologists, and assistant principals to reduce class sizes and provide greater student support.
- Increase extended learning opportunities such as summer school, intersession, before/after school interventions and enrichment programs.
- Expand professional development for teachers so that they can become more skilled in creating hands-on experiences for students.

How can LBUSD help more students to

graduate from high school?

- Explore online programs that enhance college and career planning for students, parents, counselors and other staff.
- Expand the Linked Learning Initiative, particularly by increasing career technical education courses and work-based learning programs.
- Increase extended learning opportunities such as summer school, intersession, before/after school interventions and enrichment programs.

How can LBUSD help more students to prepare for college and careers?

- Ensure adequate full-time counseling at each school to provide information and guidance on college and career readiness.
- Incorporate into the elementary school curriculum the basic requirements for successful middle school completion, high school graduation, and college and career readiness.
- Enhance current Linked Learning pathways by increasing the variety of career technical education offerings.

How can LBUSD help more parents to become involved in our schools?

- Increase parent access to school information online and partner with community organizations to provide basic technology resources at sites.
- Provide families with strategies to support their child's education at home and deliver these resources through multiple venues, including parent workshops, online communications and hard copies.
- Expand opportunities for parents to understand and support what is happening at schools.

Learn more under Local Control Funding Formula in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.



NEWCOMB REBUILD – Workers dig holes for concrete pilings as construction starts on a completely rebuilt Newcomb K-8 Academy. Learn more about Newcomb and other school construction and renovation projects under Measure K Update Newsletter in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

• Green Ribbons

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Twain is an American Heart Association Teaching Gardens School and received Energy Star certification in 2011 with a score of 97.

Hughes Middle School earned the National Green Ribbon Award last year. Longfellow Elementary School earned the National Green Ribbon Award in 2012, the inaugural year of the awards.

Teach in Yokkaichi

Teachers interested in teaching in Long Beach's sister city, Yokkaichi, Japan for two years beginning in August, are invited to an informational meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 4 to 5 p.m. at CSULB's Career Development Center, Brotman Hall, Room 250.

Applications will be available at the meeting along with representatives from the Long Beach Yokkaichi committee to answer questions. Applications are also available at the Office of the Deputy Superintendent. For information, call ext. 8025.

LBUSD Partners With Covered California

The Long Beach Unified School District is a certified enrollment entity for Covered California, the state's online marketplace for health insurance.

Are you, a family member or anyone you know interested in health insurance through Covered California because of the following reasons?

- Not eligible for benefits through your employer
- Children are too old to remain on your

Names in the News

Former Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent **Carl A. Cohn** was reappointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the State Board of Education. This will be Cohn's second consecutive term on the board. Brown first appointed him in January 2011.

Paul Williams, a 1958 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, took home a Grammy Award for Album of the Year recently. Williams – the songwriter who wrote "The Rainbow Connection" for the Muppets – was nominated along with 17 others for working on Daft Punk's "Random Access Memories." The trophy was Williams' third Grammy. He won in 1977 for Song of the Year for "Evergreen (Love Theme from 'A Star is Born')" and in 1979 for Best Children's Recording for "The Muppet Movie."

plan

- Your current plan through your employer is not affordable

Covered California is a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed by Congress in 2010 and is made up of insurance companies that will compete for your business. It's the place where those eligible can get financial help from the federal government for health coverage.

The school district has certified enrollment counselors on staff to help you make informed decisions about health coverage.

Call 997-8236 to make an appointment or ask questions.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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In Memoriam

Judy Phelps
teacher, Alvarado
Jan. 30, 2014

Douglas Von Zell
paint supervisor, Maintenance
Feb. 3, 2014