



January 25, 2019

## Long Beach Leads Nation in AP Access

Data from the Washington, D.C.-based Council of the Great City Schools depict Long Beach as a national leader in providing students greater access to Advanced Placement college preparatory courses.

CGCS is a coalition of 74 of the nation's largest urban public school systems, including Long Beach. A 235-page "Academic Key Performance Indicators" report looked at 48 of the nation's largest school systems and found that the Long Beach Unified School District:

- Ranked first nationally on the percentage of African American male students who took one or more AP courses;
- Ranked second on the overall percentage of students who took one or more AP courses;
- Ranked second on the percentage of Hispanic male students who took one or more AP courses;
- Ranked second on the percentage of reduced price lunch students who took one or more AP courses (students receive free or reduced price meals when they live in lower-income households);
- Ranked second on the percentage of students with disabilities who took one or more AP courses.

"Great City School districts that have embraced the challenge of educating America's urban children have recognized the value of benchmarking their performance and growth (Continued on next page)

## Paycheck Schedule Goes Monthly in July

The Long Beach Unified School District will offer informational meetings to all employees next month to provide details on the change to monthly payroll (instead of quadri-weekly). This change goes into effect July 1, 2019.

Payroll, Fiscal Services and Information Services are teaming up to make certain that all employees are informed and have opportunities to ask questions. These informational meetings are voluntary, and attendance will be during employees' non-duty time.

The first two meetings are scheduled for 4 and 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5 at the Teacher Resource Center Room AB, 1299 E. 32nd St.

Three additional meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way, including an 8:30 a.m. meeting in Room 445, and 4 and 5 p.m. meetings in Room 143.

For additional information, employees can go to Payroll in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) starting Jan. 29, when an informational video and Frequently Asked Questions document will be posted.

**RENAISSANCE –** Students, staff, parents and dignitaries celebrated the completion of a \$40 million renovation at Renaissance High School for the Arts this week. Funded by local school bonds, the project included this new performing arts building. View more photos at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).



## Celebrating Renaissance High's Renovation

A \$40 million renovation of Renaissance High School for the Arts is officially complete. Students, staff and parents celebrated their refurbished campus during a re-opening ceremony this week, with several dignitaries helping to mark the occasion.

Attendees enjoyed vocal, dance and drama performances by Renaissance students. Speakers included Board of Education Member Juan Benitez, Principal Kimberly Holland and former Principal Mark Zahn.

"I want to thank everyone in the district who made sure this campus is open for the academic year. This really should be a jewel for our community," Benitez said. "Thank you to everyone who made this day possible."

"It's an amazing, amazing change," said former Renaissance Principal Mark Zahn. "The Long Beach Unified School District has always supported Renaissance. They have now invested millions of dollars in this campus, and it is fantastic. Renaissance is back, and I'm sure it's back well into the 22nd Century."

Funding for the project came from school bonds approved by local voters. The major renovation includes a new two-story performing arts building, a physical education building, an open amphitheater in the center of campus, a new parking lot, perimeter fencing, marquee, signage and exterior sculpture. Buildings were retrofitted for earthquake safety, energy efficiency and accessibility by people with disabilities. New paint, ceilings, doors and floors were included, and portable classrooms were removed. The Office of Multimedia Services building on the campus also was renovated.

With about 500 students, the small high school's pathway, or emphasis, is Arts Media and Entertainment including instrumental music, vocal music, costume design, graphic arts, visual arts, stage technology and drama. The school was refurbished specifically to accommodate this pathway while offering rigorous college preparatory courses, including

numerous Advanced Placement classes. Renaissance has been listed as a top high school in the nation by the Washington Post and U.S. News and World Report for seven years in a row.

The arts high school opened in 2004 on the site where the first high school in Los Angeles County (outside the City of Los Angeles) was built in 1898. The school was rebuilt after it was destroyed by fire in 1918 and again after the 1933 Long Beach earthquake.

Learn more about Renaissance at [lbschools.net/renaissance](http://lbschools.net/renaissance).

## Independent Audits Rate LBUSD Highly

Detailed, independent audits of the Long Beach Unified School District's finances and its school bond program have resulted in the highest possible rating from certified public accountants.

The results of the audit of the school district's finances by a team of independent auditors were presented to the school board recently by the Clifton Larson Allen LLP firm. The auditing firm deemed that the school district has earned the coveted unmodified opinion, meaning the financial statements are materially correct, provide all of the appropriate disclosures, and follow all the proper accounting standards.

The accounting firm also examined the school district's Measure K and Measure E school construction and modernization program. The audits verify that expenditures made with bond funds are aligned with the voter-approved ballot measure. Auditors reviewed millions of dollars in expenditures, and there were no findings. In all cases, the expenditures were being used in alignment with voter-approved bond purposes.



**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARADE** – Several student groups and school district officials participated in Long Beach's annual parade last weekend.

## LBUSD Remembers Martin Luther King

Students, staff and school district officials honored the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by participating in Long Beach's annual Unity Parade last weekend.

Among the parade participants were members of the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education, teachers, school marching bands, dance and cheer teams, Male and Female Leadership Academies, and many other student groups.

View photos at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## Names in the News

**Khieem Jackson**, Class of 1994 at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, was named deputy superintendent of Government Affairs by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. Jackson recently served as director of Government Relations for the San Diego Unified School District.

**Sean Garland**, a fourth grader at Twain Elementary School who donates food to homeless people despite his family's financial hardships, received surprise gifts from the Long Beach Fire and Police departments. Sean and his sister both accepted new bikes and other gifts, and his mom received \$200 in gift cards to grocery stores.

Millikan High School students recently competed in the school's Jeopardy Tournament, the first such event for a high school in the Long Beach Unified School District. Senior **Jonathan Ellens** won the schoolwide championship in a tightly fought battle with tenth grade champion **Madeline Jones** and eleventh grade champion **Pablo Diaz**.

"All three schoolwide finalists were great representatives for their grade levels and did an amazing job representing Millikan High School," said Kyle Heinrich, dean of students. Board of Education President Diana Craighead was a surprise guest for the eleventh grade championship game.

## • AP Access

(Continued from first page) against the progress of others," states the report, which examined AP data from the 2016-17 school year.

Last spring, LBUSD students registered for nearly 15,000 Advanced Placement college level exams, an all-time high for the school district and a 6.1 percent increase over the prior year. The number of AP exams taken last year was nearly double the amount take five years before.

LBUSD has made a concerted effort to boost access to AP courses and tests. The school district provides students greater access to AP exams by covering the cost for families. AP exams usually cost \$92 each, but students here pay only \$5 per exam for an unlimited number of exams. The school district also expanded course sections on subjects such as AP Computer Science, AP Calculus, AP Seminar and AP Research. AP coordinators and "pathway" coordinators have been added to help guide students toward college and career readiness.

## Forms Requested for Leaves, Resignations

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2019-20 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator as soon as possible.

Resignations and requests for full-year leaves of absence received after June 30, 2019 will not be approved unless the school district is able to hire a suitable replacement. Questions? Contact Kimberly Dalton at ext. 8108 or [kdalton@lbschools.net](mailto:kdalton@lbschools.net).

According to Article VI, "Compensation," in the Teachers Association of Long Beach contract, "Employees who have served a complete contract year are eligible for district-paid benefits through Sept. 30." Questions about duration of benefits? Contact Risk Management at ext. 8234 or 8236.

## In Memoriam

**Juan De Cordova**  
former principal  
Nov. 18, 2018

### 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](http://www.lbschools.net)

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## Girls in Aviation Event is March 16

The nonprofit Women in Aviation International will bring its annual conference to Long Beach in March, including a Girls in Aviation Day planned for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at the Long Beach Convention Center.

Girls ages 8 to 17 will be introduced to aviation and aerospace career possibilities. The day includes hands-on activities, speakers, games and more. Older girls can meet with representatives from aviation colleges and universities, and learn from working women about their aviation careers.

Children must be accompanied by their parent/chaperone. The cost of \$10 per girl includes lunch. Parents and chaperones are welcome at lunch for \$10.

Register at [wai.org/girls-aviation-day-long-beach](http://wai.org/girls-aviation-day-long-beach). Space is limited.

## CPR, First Aid Class

Two CPR/First Aid certification classes for classified employees will be offered by the Personnel Commission on Friday, Feb. 1. Classes will run from 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Teacher Resource Center ABC Room, 1299 E. 32nd St.

This classified staff development event is subject to manager/supervisor approval for release time, and participants must be permanent classified employees.

Find the registration form at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Personnel Commission, then Classified Staff Development.

## Dates to Remember

### February

	National African American History Month
	National Children's Dental Health Month
	National Freedom Day
1	Groundhog Day
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
4-8	National School Counseling Week
5	Chinese New Year
5	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "George Washington," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
6	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
7	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
11	Lincoln Day — Holiday
11	Thomas Alva Edison's Birthday
12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
12	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
13	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
14	St. Valentine's Day
14	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Presidents Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Jackie Robinson Story," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
18	Washington Day — Holiday
18	Presidents Day
20	Frederick Douglass Day
20	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
21	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Reading Rainbow: Once There Was a Tree," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
22	George Washington's Birthday
22	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Indian Artists of the Southwest," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
23	W.E.B. DuBois' Birthday
26	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Ask For It," Grades 1-2, ed.tv 8
27	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Women's History Month," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
28	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8