



school bulletin

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

March 26, 2021

RENOVATION UNFOLDS –

Jordan High School enters the next phase of its multiyear transformation soon when construction crews break ground on a new 31,500-square-foot facility designed for the Aspirations in Medical Science Academy. **Story on next page.**



Teachers Return to Classroom Upgrades

For fourth grade teacher Beckie Burns, the best part about returning to John Muir Academy for in-person instruction will be seeing her students. The next best thing? The projector and whiteboards in her newly renovated classroom.

“It’s great to have new technology in the classroom since so much teaching material is digital now,” Burns said. “I have more space and the freedom to move around the room while I’m teaching now that the projector is mounted.”

Muir is one of 14 schools to receive upgrades or new construction in the last year despite the closure of all Long Beach Unified School District campuses for in-person learning. Many elementary students will return on March 29.

Modernized classrooms feature new heating and air conditioning, flooring, paint, energy-efficient lighting and windows, and accessibility upgrades. A state-of-the-art audiovisual system with high definition projectors and sound will help teachers like Burns deliver a more interactive and collaborative learning experience.

School auditoriums, cafeterias and administrative offices were also upgraded. Additional campus security, including fencing, self-locking doors and alarm systems, were completed.

To date, major infrastructure enhancements have started or been completed at 28 of the 54 campuses scheduled for improvement under the 2016 Measure E bond program.

Find the latest school reopening updates at lbschools.net/coronavirus.

State Names Three Distinguished Schools

Three schools in the Long Beach Unified School District earned the California Distinguished School Award this month for exceptional gains in student achievement.

“These schools are great examples of California’s commitment to provide outstanding public education for all students,” said Tony Thurmond, state superintendent of public instruction. “Their data driven efforts have helped ensure that their students leave with the tools and skills they need to be successful after graduation.”

Elementary schools and secondary (middle and high) schools are recognized in alternate years. This year’s awards focused on the secondary grades. LBUSD’s Marshall Academy of the Arts, and Keller and Hughes middle schools were among more than 100 schools statewide earning recognition.

The awards honor schools that

demonstrate educational excellence and progress in narrowing achievement gaps. Winners must meet a variety of criteria including exemplary performance on state accountability measures.

“Distinguished Schools represent examples of not just excellent teaching, learning and collaboration, but also highly successful, data-driven school efforts ranging from professional development to positive behavior intervention,” stated the California Department of Education’s announcement. “Amid the backdrop of uncertainty and hardship facing all California schools this past year, this recognition is especially remarkable.”

“Thanks go to all the staff at these schools – teachers, administrators, classified employees – and parents, who are working together to provide high-quality educational experiences for all of their students,” Thurmond said.

Ed Week Notes LBUSD Distance Learning

The national publication Education Week highlighted the Long Beach Unified School District in an article citing distance learning as a key factor in helping students prepare for the workforce.

The school district was recognized for its digital transformation of learning practices, as well as the distribution of WiFi hotspots and Chromebooks to students in need during school closures.

The increased use of technology introduced new learning of digital etiquette for LBUSD students. The publication highlighted the changes to the ‘norm’ rules of the classroom as an example. Now, students are learning a new set of classroom rules such as when to turn on and off cameras, how to write an email to a teacher and how to participate in an

online breakout room.

“Their daily operations are some of the best experiences that they are going to get to approximate a workplace,” LBUSD Program Administrator Nader Twal shared with Ed Week. Cindy Bater, LBUSD program administrator for Linked Learning, also was part of the story.

The school district was recognized for its ability to continue to provide career advancement opportunities to students despite the limitations caused by distance learning. Those opportunities included online events such as hosting virtual discussions with guest speakers from different companies and occupations, and encouraging students to participate in online career fairs and mock job interviews.



IN-PERSON LEARNING RESUMES –

Fourth grade teacher Beckie Burns prepares her classroom for the March 29 school reopening.

Transformation Unfolding at Jordan High

Jordan High School will enter the next phase of its multiyear transformation this summer when construction crews break ground on a new 31,500-square-foot facility. Designed for Jordan's Aspirations in Medical Science academy, the two-story building will feature a simulated patient lab complete with hospital beds and diagnostic equipment, plus classrooms and instructional spaces for special education students. A new shaded lunch shelter and an outdoor corridor with trees, seating and covered canopies will round out the next construction phase.

Jordan was first built in the 1930s, with additions and renovations occurring from the 1950s through the 1990s. Upgrades to the 27-acre campus, budgeted at \$228 million, are 65% complete.

When the final phase of construction ends in 2025, "J-Town" will be completely transformed into a modern facility designed for 21st century teaching and learning.

"It's exciting to see our vision for Jordan unfolding," said David Miranda, Long Beach Unified School District's executive director of facilities development and planning. "With each phase of the school's modernization, teachers can better provide a robust learning experience that prepares students for college and career."

The first phase of Jordan's revitalization launched in 2014 with the installation of temporary classrooms on the practice field on the southeast side of campus, allowing students to remain on-site while renovations occur.

Three new buildings for Jordan's arts program, Media and Communications, and Advanced Manufacturing academies opened in 2017. Extensive input from Jordan teachers and the district's career education leaders informed the buildings' designs, which feature art studios, a leading-edge manufacturing lab and other hands-on learning spaces.

Jordan's Architecture, Construction and Engineering and multidisciplinary

Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services is accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites or have been displaced for the 2021-22 school year. See the Teachers Association of Long Beach agreement, Article VIII for guidelines. The application can be completed and submitted online via the district website at lbschools.net.

Under the tab "Employees" select "Human Resource Services" then "For Current Employees" and scroll down to the section "Transfer." Teachers may choose to complete either or both the Elementary and Secondary Transfer application, depending on their credentials. Teachers may select sites or subject/grade levels on the Request for Transfer whether or not those positions are current vacancies.

Applications are available now and due Wednesday, March 31. Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. Questions? Email transfer@lbschools.net.

buildings opened in January 2020, with students occupying classrooms briefly before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down in-person instruction. In the ACE building's construction lab, students built original designs and discussed power tool safety. Plans were underway to incorporate the ACE building's blueprints into architecture lessons.

Panthers returning to campus for classroom-based instruction next month will see Jordan's state-of-the-art auditorium and renovated library for the first time.

Completed in January, auditorium renovations include a fully revamped interior with new seating, air conditioning and professional-grade lighting and audio-visual equipment, among other updates. The building also received seismic strengthening and accessibility upgrades.

A committee made up of librarians from across the district helped shape the renovation of Jordan's nearly 50-year-old library. Today, the library's interior features flexible seating, laptop charging stations and distinct areas for individual and collaborative learning.

Other upgrades completed since the start of Jordan's transformation include a full-service kitchen, tennis courts, parking lots, and modernized administration and band buildings. The school's phone systems and WiFi capabilities have also been enhanced.

Future upgrades to the North Long Beach campus include a new track and field and outdoor swimming pool, and renovations to the gym and science building.

LB Pride Donation

The Long Beach Unified School District recently received a donation of 180,000 bottles of hand sanitizer from Long Beach Pride. The donation, which was delivered in four semi-trailer trucks, will supplement the district's supply of hand sanitizer for the upcoming reopening of schools scheduled for March 29.

"It is a tremendous gift to us," LBUSD Director of Purchasing and Contracts Ron Hoppe told Q Voice News. "It's a great display of support for the students and the district. It's probably the largest donation of items the district has ever received." Read the full story at qvoiceneews.com. Search for the title, "Long Beach Pride donates 180,000 bottles of hand sanitizer to Long Beach Unified School District."

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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Summer, SEAL Apps

Certificated applications for Summer School and Supports Enrichment Accelerated Learning (SEAL) are available under Human Resource Services in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

The summer positions are in Special Education (Preschool through Adult), Credit Recovery (High School), and Enrichment. Information regarding dates and times of summer programs is listed on the application. All applications must be submitted by Monday, April 12.

Names in the News

The African American Cultural Center of Long Beach recently announced the winners of the 2020 Logo Art Contest, which was delayed due to the pandemic. The winning Long Beach Unified School District students included: first place, **Ashley Lumada** of Cabrillo; second place, **Wendy Lopez** of Cabrillo; third place, **Steve Garcia** of Cabrillo; fourth place, **Adrian Vargas** of Cabrillo; and fifth place, **Misha Ahmat** of Renaissance. In partnership with LBUSD and the Long Beach Education Foundation, the contest received more than 80 art submissions from LBUSD students. All submissions were displayed for voting at the AACCLB's Black History Month event in February 2020. See the winning logo at lbschools.net

Nominations Due for School Nurse of Year

The Long Beach School Nurses Association seeks nominations for the 2020-21 School Nurse of the Year Award. Each year, the association recognizes one special nurse for outstanding contributions to student health and well-being.

To nominate a school nurse, contact Nancy Suzuki for a nomination form at nsuzuki@lbschools.net. The deadline for submission is 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 12. For additional information, contact Jennifer Pouv at 630-6200 or 602-0302.

In Memoriam

Robert Saunders
former teacher
December 21, 2020

Jeanne Yugar
psychologist, OSSS-Stephens
January 27, 2021

Rosemary Perry Shallenberger
former deputy director, Research
January 30, 2021

Gwendolyn Fleming
former recreation aide
February 14, 2021

Flora I. Mata
former teacher
February 21, 2021

Carolyn Kennedy
former teacher
February 24, 2021