



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# District Digest

January - June 2022 - Volume X - No 3

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## Congratulations Gahr HS Gladiators!

The Gahr HS Jazz Band hit the high notes at the recent Music in the Park Festival held at Knott's Berry Farm. The festival's judges recognized the band with a "Superior" rating, first-place in their division, and a win in the overall sweepstakes. The band's alto saxophonist William Wu won the outstanding solo award. ▶



## Whitney HS Named Top School in California

U.S. News and World Report announced its annual ranking of high schools, and Whitney HS was ranked Number One in California, with a 99% graduation rate and college readiness score of 98.4. The publication uses a scorecard that includes advanced placement, or AP, courses and passing rates, graduation rates, and math, reading, and science proficiency to rank schools. The school was ranked as the 14<sup>th</sup> best high school in the nation with a nearly perfect scorecard. All four comprehensive high schools in the ABC Unified School District were ranked in the top third of 2,572 California high schools. Cerritos HS ranked 64<sup>th</sup>, Gahr HS ranked 299<sup>th</sup>, and Artesia HS came in at 741<sup>st</sup> in the state. The publication based the rankings on data from nearly 24,000 public high schools across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. ▶





# News From Our Schools and Around The District

## Cerritos High School's 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration

Cerritos High School first opened its doors back in September 1971. The school celebrated 50 years of serving students on March 26, 2022. Alumni and former staff members joined current students, families, and staff to celebrate what it means to be a Don. Quite a bit has changed since the school opened its doors in September 1971, but what hasn't, is the commitment of teachers and staff to provide the best education possible to students. ▮





## Six ABC Schools Recognized for Pivoting During Online Learning



The California Department of Education has recognized six ABCUSD schools through the California Pivotal Practice (CAPP) Program. Schools were chosen due to a pivotal practice they implemented during distance learning from at least one of the following categories:

- Student Engagement
- Distribution of Technology
- Nutrition Services
- Social Emotional Well-Being of Students

Congrats to the winners of the 2022 CA Pivotal Practice Award Program announced by State Superintendent Tony Thurmond. Artesia HS, Juarez ES, Leal ES, Niemes ES, Nixon ES, and Wittmann ES. ▶

## Cerritos Optimist Honors

Congratulations to Artesia HS senior Morgan Colbert for receiving the Cerritos Optimist Youth Appreciation Award. ▶



## California Junior Scholarship Federation Awards

This marks the fourth year in a row that both Carmenita MS's CJSF nominees have won the Marian Huhn Memorial Award! This award recognizes outstanding 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student members of the CJSF for their excellence and service. ▶



*From left to right, Siddhant Khapra 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Yujun (Amy) Ge 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

## Cerritos HS's Champion

Congratulations to Cerritos HS sophomore, Kyle Ly, who took 1<sup>st</sup> place in a combination 1 and 3-meter springboard for the CIF Diving Championships. ▶



Visit our website for ABCUSD schools' addresses, contact info, enrollment boundaries and more!

[www.abcusd.us](http://www.abcusd.us)



# News From Our Schools and Around The District

## Whitney High School's New Science Building

On April 29, elected officials and community leaders joined Whitney HS staff and administrators to cut the ceremonial ribbon for the school's new science building. The building features 1,300 square feet state-of-the-art science labs where students can apply their learning. Measure BB, the school facilities bond passed by voters in 2018, funded the construction of the new science building and the educational dreams of our current and future students. ►



*Principal Briquet with Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia.*



## UCLA Dental Program at Hawaiian ES

Kindergarteners at Hawaiian ES received oral health assessments and sealants if needed. Hawaiian ES is the first of 24 schools across L.A. County to be visited by UCLA dentists and dental students this year. L.A. County funds this program and will track the impact of teaching good oral hygiene on overall health. ►





# Congratulations to the Whitney HS's Robotics Club!

Winning the Promote Award and earned Second Place in the Think Awards at a recent competition at Monrovia HS. ▶




Team Captain Darian Victoria; Mechanical Kirsten Yen, William Jung, Ben Chen, Aabil Ali, Jeffrey Liao, Aleena Kang, Dylan Hudson, Yolanda Lin; Software Perry Han, Nairrit Sengupta, Sid Shah, Arun Nambiar; Outreach Christine Liu, and Sofia Nowell

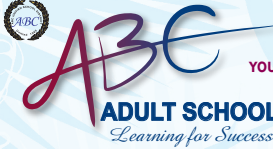
## The Association of California School Administrator Awards

ACSA has recognized two ABCUSD administrators from Region 14. The organization named Dr. Ricardo Lois, Principal at Gahr HS, as Secondary Principal of the Year, and Mr. Kester Song, Human Resources Director, as Central Office Administrator of the Year. Congratulations to our amazing administrators. ▶






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# News From Our Schools and Around The District

## Cerritos HS Dance Team

Cerritos HS Dance Team competed in the West Coast Elite National Finals at the Long Beach Convention Center on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The team's "Large Hip Hop" group took first place, becoming National Champions. ►



*Their coach Adam Largaespada and all 22 members on the team.*

## Aloha Students Get New Shoes

Thanks to Shoes That Fit, a non-profit organization that gives new athletic shoes to students in need, all students at Aloha ES received new shoes. Volunteers from HealthCare Pros, a local company, helped fit and distribute shoes to the kids. ►





## Student Scholarships at Artesia HS

Artesia HS would like to thank Shoe Palace in addition to James Harden's Impact13 Foundation for providing \$20,000 worth of scholarships for our students. ▶



## Artesia HS Student Honored as a Community Ambassador

Congratulations to Artesia HS student Isabel Rivera for being recognized by the City of Lakewood, The Rotary Club of Lakewood and the Pan American Association as a Community Ambassador. She will be attending UCSD in the fall. ▶







## Board Members

Soo Yoo - President  
Brad Beach - Vice President  
Dr. Michael Eugenio - Clerk  
Dr. Chris Apodaca - Member  
Ernie Nishii - Member  
Dr. Olga Rios - Member  
Sophia Tse - Member

## Superintendent

Dr. Mary Sieu



ABC Unified School District's **District Digest** is published bimonthly by the Superintendent's Office.

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