



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

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A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu
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Positive Results and Progress in ABC USD

On September 8, 2016, the California State Board of Education approved a new accountability and continuous improvement system. The new system includes the eight State priorities that define a quality education from a broader perspective than a single test score. Additionally, the State accountability evaluation rubric will be used to analyze state and local performance standards. The rubric will assist districts in identifying strengths and weaknesses. The new accountability system provides multiple measures of student performance and provides a more complete picture of students' educational experience. The State performance indicators will include academic indicators, progress of English learners, college and career indicators, high school graduate rate, suspension rate and chronic absenteeism.

The academic indicator for measuring progress of student achievement is the California Assessment of Student Performance

and Progress (CAASPP) in English Language Arts and Math for grades 3rd through 11th grade. The State released the results from the CAASPP for each school district last month. So how did ABCUSD do on the CAASPP this year? Throughout the District, 63 percent of our students met or exceeded standards in English Language Arts, a 4 percent increase over the prior year. The State's average this year was 49 percent. In Math, 53 percent of our students met or exceeded standards, up 5 percent, again exceeding the State's average of 37 percent.

The District saw progress of English learners toward English proficiency based on the English learner indicator. This year, 68.4% of the English learners demonstrated proficiency.

Our District's High School Graduation Rate continues to climb and reached 94.4 percent in 2014-15, an increase of 0.9 percent from the previous year. The State's overall Graduation Rate was 82.3 percent during the same year.

We continue to work toward reducing our District's suspension rates by providing alternative means of discipline. Our District's Suspension Rate for 2015-16 was 1.9 percent, a decrease from the prior year of 2.1 percent. The State's average Suspension Rate last year was 3.8 percent.

The State is still working on the college and career indicators as well as the chronic absenteeism indicators. However, based on the new data and the State Performance Indicators, we're seeing positive results in ABC Unified School District. There is progress shown including our graduation rates and greater participation in Advanced Placement courses and exams.

We welcome you to attend our upcoming Superintendent's Parent-Community Forums this fall to learn more about the new State's Accountability Plan and our District's efforts. ▶



On October 3, 2016 the City of Hawaiian Gardens honored Dr. Mary Sieu as the 2016 Honoree at the 17th Annual Donald Schultze Memorial Awards Dinner.

Cerritos High School's Rocketeers Compete Internationally



Cerritos High School's Rocketeers, from top to bottom, Conely Tjahjono, Gene Luevano, Benjamin Pluma, Curtis Garrett, Julio Juarez, Htet Naung, Lamour Atkins, Dev Bhatia, David Rodriguez, Andrey Garcia

On September 24th, the 10 member Rocketeers from Cerritos High School went to Washington, DC for the Mars Society Convention to be part of the International Gemini Mars Design Competition. The competition asked engineering students from around the world to design and plan a two-person Mars flyby mission that could be launched by 2024 and would be placed on the desk of the U.S. president-elect in November 2016. And the competition brought out the world's best universities, representing 7 countries including Japan, Russia, and Australia. However, when the Mars Society narrowed all their entrants down to the top ten finalists, they found that the 38 page proposal sent in by Cerritos High School, could not be ignored. Cerritos was the only high school selected as a finalist and asked to present their proposal to a conventional hall of spectators and renowned Scientists.

Under the direction of teachers, Philip Turek, Britni Rebollar, and Bryan Jernigan, the team worked on their presentation. The experience and recognition these 10 students—Lamour Atkins, Dev Bhatia, Andrey Garcia, Curtis Garrett, Julio Juarez, Eugene Luevano, Htet Naung, Benjamin Pluma, David Rodriguez, and Conely Tjahjono— have gained cannot be measured, but it can be noticed, and it has been. The Mars Society is now in discussions to create a competition at the high school level, due in part to the amazing presentation Cerritos High School students gave. Dev Bhatia, senior leader of the Rocketeers, summed up the project and presentation as *“Truly a remarkable experience that showed me nothing is impossible if I have the drive to go out and do it.”*

For more information on the Gemini Mars Design Finalist visit <http://www.marssociety.org/> ▶

Gahr HS Teacher on ELPAC Panel

The California Department of Education has notified the ABC Unified School District that the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) is one step closer to implementation thanks to the collaborative work of educators throughout California. In the first week of August 2016, 60 educators met in grade-level panels to review over 2,000 individual test items for appropriate content and absence of issues related to bias and sensitivity. Gahr High School Teacher, Russell Spradlin participated on the content review panel. We would like to thank him for his time and dedication. ▶



ABC Honor Roll Schools and Honor Roll District

At the September 6th ABC Unified School District's Board of Education Meeting, 15 schools were recognized for being selected for the California Honor Roll by the Educational Results Partnership and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE). The Honor Roll recognizes public elementary, middle and high schools that demonstrate consistently high levels of student academic achievement gaps. For high schools, Honor Roll recognition includes high college readiness in students.

The California Honor Roll Program is made possible with support from numerous businesses and organizations including State Farm, AAA, Macy's, Wells Fargo, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and several private foundations. In addition, Chevron Corporation provided specific support in the creation of the STEM Honor Roll this year. Since 2005, the Honor Roll has focused business and academic leaders around a common agenda for high performing public schools leading to increased college success and economic productivity.

The STAR Schools were schools that had 33% or more students who were socioeconomically disadvantaged: Bragg ES; Burbank ES; Carver ES; Elliott ES; Kennedy ES; Niemes ES; Nixon ES; Palms ES; and Tetzlaff MS.

The Scholar Schools were schools with fewer than 33% of students who were socioeconomically disadvantaged: Carmenita MS; Cerritos ES; Leal ES; Gonsalves ES; Wittmann ES; and Whitney HS.

ABC Unified School District was also selected for the first time as one of 13 school districts in California for the HONOR ROLL SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARD. The Educational Results Partnership and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence indicated that after an extensive analysis of student data for every public school and school district in California, ABC Unified School District stood above the rest in getting our students to grade level and beyond. Our District includes one of the largest percentages of Honor Roll Schools--particularly those with high percentages of socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

Superintendent of ABCUSD, Dr. Mary Sieu acknowledged the collective work of the District including the Board of Education, District staff, principals, teachers, support personnel, parents and most importantly, the students in ABC. *"This is a testament to our relentless focus on STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT."* ▀

Cerritos High School's Teaching Pathway

California will experience a drastic shortfall of teachers in the near future. In an effort to expand its support of the development of highly qualified, talented teachers, Cerritos High School (CHS) is adding a second class to its Teacher Pathway program this year. CHS juniors and seniors will learn about educational issues and teaching philosophy as well as gain valuable teaching experience in the Introduction to Teaching and Introduction to Education classes.

In 2015-2016, CHS students volunteered at Sunshine Preschool's Fall Festival, tutored Elliott Elementary students in grades 1-6 in math four days a week for two months in the spring, and hosted a hands-on workshop for Special Education students at Cerritos High School. In addition to these highlights, they presented lessons to their classes and engaged in diverse educational activities, including a student designed research project in which students chose a learning theory, created a study to test the theory, ran their experiment, collected data, analyzed results, and shared out to the class.

This year CHS students will have even more opportunities to develop professional skills and contribute meaningfully in local schools. Students will join the California and national chapters of Educator's Rising (previously Future Teachers of America). Students are scheduled to participate in an education conference that will be held in the spring of 2017.

Juniors are taking part in the new adoption of Project Tomorrow's Youth Teach 2 Learn curriculum, in which CHS students design lessons in math and teach them to local elementary students.



Seniors will earn college credit for two Cerritos College Teacher TRAC classes: Introduction to Teaching and Technology in Education. This powerful program gives CHS students the opportunity to begin their teacher training at CHS, continue at Cerritos College as Teacher TRAC students, and complete their education at CSULB, earning a degree and a teaching credential by the end of four years.

According to Cerritos HS teacher, Laura Rheaume many Teacher Pathway students at Cerritos High School are planning on bringing their talents back home by applying to ABCUSD as new teachers. Their commitment to the community begins at CHS and extends into future classrooms throughout the district! ▀

New Teacher Orientation

The New Teacher Orientation was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 in the District Board Room in partnership with ABC Federation of Teachers (ABCFT). There was excitement in the air as the new teachers arrived to learn about the ABC Unified School District. Olympia Chen, Board President, gave a warm welcome to the 32 new teachers. Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu emphasized the importance of their work with our ABC students. Assistant Superintendent-Academic Services Valencia Mayfield and ABCFT PAL Coordinator Rich Saldana shared information regarding curriculum, instruction, and funding.



Board Member Letty Mendoza shared an inspirational and positive message with the new teachers about the difference they will make in their students' learning and lives. Additionally, teachers received information about the ABC Website, Resources, and Google. Our experienced teachers were on hand to give the new teachers tips on the first few days of school and Ray Gaer, President of ABCFT, was present to offer support from ABCFT. The Fiscal Services department shared important information as well. It was definitely an exciting and successful event! The new teachers include: 7 elementary, 8 middle school, 9 high school, 1 Early Child Development (40%), 2 band (Elementary), 5 Speech and Language teachers, totaling 32 new teachers. ▶

ABC Superintendent Honored by Community Family Guidance Center

On June 27, 2016, Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent of ABC Unified School District was honored by the Community Family Guidance Center with their "Protector of Children Award". The event was held at the Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park. The Awards Dinner followed their annual golf tournament to support the Community Family Guidance Center. The recipient of last year's Award was L.A. Supervisor Don Knabe.

In accepting the Award, Dr. Sieu shared the strong partnership that ABC Unified School District has with the Community Family Guidance Center in providing mental health services for students and families in the District. The Community Family Guidance Center is part of ABC's Community Resource Team that provides intense levels of support for students who experience trauma, depression, suicide ideation, and other socio-emotional issues. ▶



Colleagues from ABCUSD and Dr. Mary Sieu honored with the "2016 Protector of Children Award".

Congratulations to ABC USD for its Achievements!



Dr. Gina Zietlow has been named ACSA's State 2016 Secondary Administrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) for her leadership, guidance and tireless efforts to promote student learning.



Congratulations to Gahr HS Principal Crechena Wise for being a National Association of Secondary School Principal Finalist!



Board Member Maynard Law graduated from the California School Boards Association Masters in Governance Program on Oct. 1, 2016.

(TIP) Technology Integration Project Kicks Off Its Second Year

This year ABC Unified kicked off its second year of the **Technology Integration Project (TIP)**. TIP provides selected grade level or department teacher teams at every school dedicated 1:1 technology access to mobile devices, comprehensive teacher training and release time, infrastructure, and on-site technical support.

This year TIP will deploy classroom 1:1 mobile device technology, backed by strong professional development, to approximately 40% of the entire ABC teaching core. TIP incrementally provides such technology access each year to a selected grade level, or department, team in an effort to provide all students and teachers on-demand access to technology by the year 2020.

All of ABC's secondary schools have chosen the English Language Arts Departments to participate in TIP. This year the TIP focus includes the technology resources associated with the new English Language Arts adoption. ABC schools will all benefit from their new TIP devices, technology training, and training on the most salient technology resources associated with the new English Language Arts textbook.

ABC schools choose from three different TIP start windows (September, October, November). The recent Window 1 start window kickoff included nine ABC schools. The kickoff was held at the District Office for elementary schools on Friday, September 9, and Monday, September 12, for secondary schools.

The TIP Kickoffs are designed to ensure all school TIP teams get off to a great start! Agenda items include networking,

introductions of school and district staff, and an overview of this year's TIP program design. TIP Teams receive dedicated time to work together on their school's individual school TIP technology plan. In addition, TIP teams learn about their new 1:1 devices, and the Google Ecosystem essential for online student and teacher classroom workflow. In addition, TIP Teachers get to choose from offered technology sessions with titles that includes: *New Google Forms for assessment, Google Chrome and extensions, Chromebook 101, Google Classroom, PDFs - Annotate, Save and Share for ELA Adoption, Google Slides, ELA using StudySync, Google Drive Basics, and Hyperdocs and Templates.*

This year is bound to be another exciting year for many teachers and students as we build continued technology capacities on every ABC campus. ▶



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

www.abcusd.k12.ca.us



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LACOE Migrant Education - Harvest of the Month



The ABC Unified School District through the USDA Supplemental Assistance Program, has successfully implemented the Harvest of the Month Program for over 14 years at school sites where 50% or more of the students are eligible to receive free or reduced priced meals. The Harvest of the Month Program increases access to fruits and vegetables through nutrition education in various settings starting from the classrooms to various community-based locations. In 2013, ABCUSD partnered with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to successfully implement the Nutrition Education Obesity Prevention (NEOP) Project. The goals of the NEOP-LACOE Project are to increase access to and consumption of healthy foods, increase consumption of healthy beverages, increase daily physical activity opportunities, link eligible participants to federally funded nutrition assistance programs and to reduce obesity and other diet-related chronic diseases among Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligible populations. During this time, LACOE and ABC USD staff worked closely together to plan and conduct a series of parent classes on topics such as basic nutrition and MyPlate dietary guidelines, shopping on a budget, creating healthy meals and physical activity promotion.

This school year, we connected with Angela Fernandez and Patricia Navarro with Migrant Education Summer Programs and provided a series of parent classes to Migrant Education parents at both Furgeson Elementary and Melbourne Elementary School. During the series of parent classes offered this summer, parents learned how to create a healthy plate using MyPlate dietary guidelines. Parents also learned how to shop on a budget and how to create

a MyPlate dinner for their families with ten dollars using grocery store circulars and during the last workshop they learned how to calculate grams of sugar into teaspoons of sugar while also exploring healthier beverage options.

The series of parent classes were taught in English by Angela Pena, LACOE Nutrition Expert, and translated into Spanish by Patricia Navarro. The information and resources that were brought to the classes, included power point presentations, in both English and Spanish. Physical activity tips and resources were also provided by Carrie Flint, LACOE Physical Activity Specialist and by Bobbie Bodie, LACOE Nutrition Expert. Parents engaged in various physical activity demonstrations while learning about the benefits of physical activity as well as tasted several healthy food and beverage recipes. We thank Migrant Education Summer Programs for allowing us to provide nutrition education, physical activity information and resources to the parents who are a part of this wonderful program.

Nearly one in three children and adolescents in the United States are overweight or at risk of being overweight. Higher rates of childhood obesity are seen in Hispanic and African American communities where nearly 40% of children are overweight or obese. If this trend continues, this may be the first generation to have a shorter life span than their parents due to chronic-obesity related health problems such as heart disease, high blood pressure and cancer. Bringing nutrition education and physical activity opportunities and information to our families is one way that we are helping to fight childhood obesity. ▸

Community Involvement

Schoolhouse Rockers Compete in 20th Annual Dragon Boat Festival to Raise Funds for the ABC Education Foundation



The Schoolhouse Rockers was formed to bring together community leaders, teachers and Board Members to build camaraderie, collaboration and to learn a new team sport. The “Rockers” are ABC Board Vice President Chris Apodaca; ABC Board Member and Team Captain Lynda Johnson; ABC Adult School teachers Todd Tabon and Diane Jhun; Cerritos High School teacher Diane Middleton and former CHS teacher Bryan West; Burbank teachers Susan Yim, Oliver Wang, and Tricia Minnehan; Melbourne teacher Jenny Hernandez; ABC Facilities Committee Chairperson Brad Beach; ABC Finance and Audit Committee Member Jim Giordano; Whitney High School Foundation Treasurer Carol Uchiyama; Cerritos High graduate Lauren Poblete; and community members Danny Mendez, Bella Rubio, and Mike Escamilla. The Schoolhouse Rockers presented a check for \$400 to the ABC Education Foundation as a donation in support of students in the ABC School District. ▶

ABC Education Foundation Backpack Initiative



What a great group of volunteers who helped stuff the 500 Backpacks for the ABC Education Foundation! Thank you!

Wesley Health Center is Open to All!



Congresswoman Linda Sanchez visited the Wesley Health Center at Fedde MS on August 11, 2016. The Fedde Health Center is open 3 days a week for pediatric and primary care. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay. For more information, call (562) 867-7999.

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

www.abcusd.k12.ca.us



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Chris Apodaca - Vice President
Soo Yoo - Clerk
Lynda Johnson - Member
Maynard Law - Member
Leticia Mendoza - Member
Sophia Tse - Member

Superintendent

Dr. Mary Sieu



ABC Unified School District's **District Digest** is published
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