



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

September/October 2021 - Volume X - No 1

A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu
Follow me on Twitter: @ABCSupt

Welcome Back to School

It's with great pleasure to welcome our students and families back to school this year. I'm honored to serve as Superintendent of ABC Unified School District for the past ten years. I recognize that the strength of our District is our ability to leverage individual talents of our stakeholders including our dynamic Board of Education, outstanding teachers, support staff, amazing parents, and community members. As a result of our collective work, ABCUSD has thrived throughout the past fifty-six years to become one of the top performing districts in California.

We serve a number of communities that truly understand the importance of education. We have extraordinary partners that fill critical gaps and enhance our programs including the PTA, ABC Education Foundation, and hundreds of business and community partners within our District. Our talented and incredible students make us proud of what they do every day in the classroom. For information, regarding our 30 schools, please go directly to the school's website. We recognize that there is always room for improvement and the work remains. We welcome your input as we begin another school year in the District. Thank you in advance for your support and guidance throughout this school year.

Our District Digest is published bimonthly by the Superintendent's Office. We highlight many activities and accomplishments of our students and schools. For more information about ABC Unified School District, please check our website at: www.abcsud.us or follow me on Twitter: @abcsupt. Please give us a call if you wish to receive this e-publication regarding our school district.

We look forward to another great school year! ▶

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News From Our Schools and Around The District

Equity Officer



ABCUSD is pleased to announce the hiring of Adrienne M. Thomas as the District's first Equity Officer. Ms. Thomas knows the District well, having spent four years as Dean of Students at Gahr HS before moving to the Brea Olinda Unified School District as Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction at Brea Olinda HS. Ms. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass

Communications and two Masters of Arts Degrees. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Education at USC.

The Equity Officer position will oversee the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Equity and Diversity Plan for the District to address the Equity Board Policy and other areas of the District's Strategic Plan. ▶

National Blue Ribbon School Award

Congratulations to Craig Spratt, Principal at Cerritos ES for being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School. As Principal Craig Spratt said, "Being named a National Blue Ribbon School is a tremendous honor for our students and staff. This recognition is due to the hard work of the entire school community." ▶



ABCUSD High Schools Ranked

All four ABCUSD comprehensive high schools were ranked in the top 750 high schools in California by U.S. News in the publication's annual national ranking of public high schools. Whitney HS was ranked second in the state and 25th nationally, with Cerritos HS ranked 64th, Gahr HS ranked 295th, and Artesia HS ranked 749th in the state of California. Congratulations to our exceptional high schools. ▶



ABC Adult School offers great classes and programs!

Check out our website at www.abcadultschool.edu

Los Cerritos Center Art Installation



Gahr HS students enrolled in the Arts Technology Academy (ATA) pathway were "hired" to design a mural to celebrate the class of 2021. Students used their skills, talents, and knowledge of graphic design technologies learned within the pathway to create an art piece that highlighted all 5 high schools and represented the diverse and rich culture of our students and programs. The Los Cerritos Center generously donated to the project, by covering the cost of the printing and installation of the mural within the Los Cerritos Center. The large artwork is visible to all patrons walking by, and serves as a wonderful backdrop for any of our graduates looking for a memorable photo. The art piece is to remain on display through the end of 2021. ▶

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

www.abcusd.us

Students Celebrate Women's Equality Day

Six young ABCUSD high school women from the Legacy of the Women's Suffrage Movement commemorated the 101st Anniversary of the 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote in 1920, by hosting a teen pre voter registration drive at the Cerritos Public Library on August 26, 2021. This event was a joint project between ABCUSD's Career Tech Education Office and La Palma Cerritos AAUW. They assisted twenty-six eager 16 and 17-year-old students in filling out their voter application forms. They also encouraged library patrons to check out books on women's suffrage, passed out AAUW membership forms/brochures, as well as bookmarks of famous American women. They proudly wore sashes, emblazoned with "Women Win the Vote" in the official colors of the women's suffrage: purple, white, and yellow. ▶



Left to Right: Alesia Gomez, Krishna Hajari, Alejandra Espinoza, Leah Triana, Jamie Gokim and Amber Wang.



Summer 2021 Internships

The CTE and School and Community Partnerships department is proud to report on the successful completion of two virtual internship programs that students from ABCUSD had the opportunity to participate in this summer. Students from Artesia, Cerritos, Gahr, Tracy, and Whitney high schools were afforded the opportunity to apply their CTE coursework knowledge to real work experiences. Twenty-three students from ABCUSD took part in the virtual programs this summer. Students participating in the Boeing program were assigned to teams to develop projects related to satellite development, artificial intelligence, computer science, and chemical engineering. Students presented "poster sessions" to Boeing executives and also participated in community service projects to support youth in realizing their own engineering career goals.

LA Metro internship projects included those related to: safety, marketing/design, environment, and smart cities. In addition to the projects, students participated in weekly virtual career readiness modules provided by LA Trade Tech College - as a result, ABCUSD students each earned two units of college credit as well as Google certification. On Friday, August 6, 2021, the student project teams each presented their final products to Metro executives and industry professionals for prizes. The team led by Sasha Leonardo, Coordinator of CTE and School & Community Partnerships took second place for their Major Capital Campaign Project to establish a transportation hub at Burbank Airport. ▶

News From Our Schools and Around The District

The Pioneers' New Field

Elected officials joined members of the ABCUSD Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu at Artesia HS to cut a ceremonial ribbon “opening” the school’s new athletic field before a varsity football game. Measure BB, the school improvement bond passed by voters in 2018, funded the new state-of-the-art synthetic field. The field is only one update going on at Artesia HS. Classrooms have been updated with more improvements, including a new media center, on the way. ▶



Board President Sophia Tse with Artesia HS' Cheerleaders.



Left to Right: Superintendent Dr. Sieu, Board Clerk Nishii, Board President Tse, Artesia HS Principal Garcia, Board Member Dr. Rios, and Cerritos City Council Member Yokoyama.



Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month!

Hispanic Heritage Month runs from September 15 – October 15. The district celebrated the contributions and accomplishments of Hispanic Americans. Many of our schools held different activities to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, including Artesia HS who hosted a campus wide Loteria bingo game, el Caballo Dorado Line Dance, and two giant piñatas for all their students to enjoy. ▶



ABCUSD Celebrates Two Students Earning a Perfect Score

The ABC Unified School District and Whitney HS congratulate students Kayla Hamakawa and Max Zou for earning perfect scores on an Advanced Placement (AP) Exam. Both students achieved the top score in the subject of Computer Science Principles. Kayla and Max are two of only 335 students worldwide with a perfect score in this subject.

“I am delighted that we have not just one but two students earning every point possible on an AP exam,” said Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu. “These scores are a reflection of the students’ hard work and the dedicated teachers who have provided support and instruction.”

“In all of my years in education, I’ve never seen this before,” said Whitney HS Principal John Briquelet. “To have one student earn a perfect score on an AP exam is very rare, but to have two is simply amazing. I’m not only proud of Kayla and Max, but of their instructor, Eamon Marchant.” ▶

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Congratulations Marching Bands!

Let's hear it for the bands! Both the Gahr Marching Gladiators and Tetzlaff Trojan Marching Band were recently recognized. The Gahr Marching Gladiators took home First Place in Division 5A at the Mayfair Field Show Tournament. They won awards for High Music Performance, High Visual Performance, High Music Effect, High Visual Effect, High Percussion, and High Auxiliary. The Tetzlaff Trojans marched their way into second place at the Placentia Heritage Competition and Parade. Congratulations to these fantastic student musicians, their teachers, and volunteers. ▶



Tetzlaff Trojans Marching Band



Gahr Marching Gladiators

National Youth Science Camp Delegate

Cerritos HS student Angelina Lee is one of three California students named a delegate to the 2021 National Youth Science Camp. Delegates were selected for their high achievement and proficiency in STEM. 132 top STEM students from across the United States and other nations attended a virtual symposium with lectures, seminars, and special events. ▶



Kennedy ES Buddy Bench

Kennedy's new Buddy Bench is designed to help combat isolation on the playground, encourage empathy, foster an inclusive school community, and overall help promote kindness among all our students. The Buddy Bench was placed in the main playground for students who are feeling lonely; they can simply sit down on the bench and wait for a student to reach out to them and invite them to play or talk. Having the Buddy Bench on the playground will encourage students to look out for one another so no one feels left out. ▶





Board Members

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

Superintendent

Dr. Mary Sieu



ABCUSD held its first open to the public Board Meeting since March 2020. Guests were socially distanced and safety protocols were in place.



(Left to Right) Board Vice President Soo Yoo, Dr. Eugenio, Mr. Beach, Board President Sophia Tse, Dr. Apodaca, Dr. Rios, Board Clerk Mr. Nishii, and Superintendent Dr. Sieu

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

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