

Family of Schools



FAMILY OF SCHOOLS API SCORES INCREASE

LOS ANGELES, September 18, 2008 —

Six of the seven Westchester schools in Loyola Marymount University's Family of Schools increased their scores on the State Academic Performance Index test from last year. [Click here to read more.](#)

Upcoming Events

Transition Team Meetings

Westchester High School
Mondays 5:00 - 7:00 PM
WHS Library

Orville Wright Middle School
Thursdays 3:30 - 5:30 PM
Title 1 Office

Cowan Elementary School
Thursdays 3:30 - 5:30 PM
Teacher's Lounge

Kentwood Elementary School
Thursdays 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Library

Westport Heights Elementary School
Thursdays 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Library

Missed a meeting and want to see the agenda or minutes? [Click here for more information.](#)

Paseo Del Rey and Loyola Village

LMU Family of Schools Update September 2008

LMU Family of Schools Off to a Great Start

The five schools in the iDesign/LMU Family of Schools partnership opened their doors this month for an exciting year of transition, planning, and action in the collective effort to increase student success for all.

Stakeholders from Westchester High School, Orville Wright Middle School, and Cowan, Kentwood, and Westport Heights Elementary Schools barely took a break for the summer, coming together for transition team meetings, work sessions, professional development opportunities, and much more in preparation for the new school year.

The Office of Learning and Leadership iDesign/LMU Family of Schools

As you may have heard, the five iDesign schools partnering with LMU have a new resource for learning and leadership strategies.

Located in Bungalow S-14 on the east side of the Westchester High School campus, the Office of Learning and Leadership (OLL) partners with Loyola Marymount University and iDesign Division to support all the schools in the LMU Family of Schools. Whether it is fielding phone calls regarding school problems, planning workshops on transformational leadership for principals, or holding human relations sessions for parent groups, the staff of the OLL is dedicated to academic excellence for all students.

Office hours are 7:45 am - 4:30 pm. Please stop by, have a cup of coffee and introduce yourself to our Administrative Assistant, Ms. Leticia Madera and Operations Specialist, Dr. Laverne Patterson. Find out how you can help every student learn every day.

Office: (310) 338-2488 (temporary)
Stephen Rochelle, Director: (213) 220-7528

Administrative Changes

Elementary Schools

LMU will work with teachers, families, school staff and other stakeholders to schedule meetings this fall and throughout the coming year to keep stakeholders up to date about the work at the schools in the iDesign/LMU FoS partnership and to discuss potential next steps for the two schools.

The Big Read

The LMU Family of Schools and the LMU Library in partnership with Will & Company, a not-for-profit theatre group based at the Ricardo Montalban Theater is participating in The Big Read, a nation-wide initiative through the National Endowment for the Arts to restore reading to the center of American Culture. [Click here for more information](#)

To kick off the project, LMU is hosting a free screening on Friday September 26 @ 7PM of Under The Same Moon, a hit independent film released in 2008. [For more information about the screening, click here.](#)

There are some new faces in the Family of Schools, with new assistant principals and principals, in addition to new teachers and staff at many of the partner schools.

Kentwood Elementary School: *Assistant Principal Christine Ferreria*
Orville Wright Middle School: *Assistant Principal Christina Wantz, Assistant Principal Antonio Pierola, Principal James Stapleton*
Westchester High School: *Assistant Principal Leonard Choi, Interim Assistant Principal Mr. Davey, Interim Principal Fonna Bishop*

Visit your school site to meet these new administrators and to hear about new teachers and staff.

Transition Teams Come Together

Each school in the iDesign/LMU Family of Schools Partnership chose stakeholders to serve as Transition Team members, working in partnership with the school leadership, LMU, and the Office of Learning and Leadership to ensure smooth school openings, address hiring needs at their respective schools, and begin researching decision-making processes or structures.

Each Transition Team had unique ways of organizing itself, although all established committees or work groups to address different aspects of the tasks in front of them.

The transition teams at Cowan, Kentwood and Westport Heights met towards the end of the summer to begin discuss options for school governance. Each team is working with LMU's Samantha Brown to talk through state requirements, decision dimensions, and existing structures at the school in order to create proposals for governance structures which will be presented to all school stakeholders for a vote. These new governance bodies will provide greater oversight and decision-making at each school site.

The Kentwood team also assembled a hiring committee to hire their new Assistant Principal, Christine Ferreria.

At Orville Wright Middle School, in addition to a governance committee, the Transition Team established a hiring committee to guide the hiring of a new principal (James Stapleton), and two assistant principals (Christina Wantz and Antonio Pierola)

Westchester High School's Transition Team also established a governance committee and a hiring committee, in addition to other committees that focused on "Day One" needs, culture and climate, and instruction and curriculum. The hiring team led the way in the hiring of a new Assistant Principal for the 9th grade academy (Leonard Choi), an interim assistant principal for the Media, Communications, and Technology Small Learning Community (Mr. Davey), and an interim principal (Fonna Bishop).

All Transition Team meetings are open to the public. Please see the information on the left for information about these meetings at the different schools.

LMU FoS Hosts Governance Symposium

Throughout the summer, Transition Teams began to draft proposals for school self-governance, guided by resources provided by LMU Family of Schools. At the Governance Symposium, Transition Team members had an opportunity to reflect upon and share their governance ideas in a collaborative atmosphere. The morning kicked off with a presentation by Dr. Gloria Martinez, former principal at Palisades Charter High School, on key standards for effective self-governance. After an extensive Question and Answer session, Transition Teams broke into groups to reflect on their existing governance proposals in light of the presented material. In the afternoon, each team presented their draft governance proposals to the entire group and fielded questions.

Interested in learning more? [Click here for podcasts from the day.](#)

The task of designing and implementing a governance structure is a long process that involves collaboration among all stakeholder groups. The Governance Symposium was one step in that process, and allowed for important sharing to occur across the five schools. For example, after hearing another team's proposal for a single overarching Governance Council, one team requested more information about the possibility of merging its Leadership and School Site Councils. Consequently, LMU hosted a follow-up Governance Forum to address this topic.

This message was sent to by:

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