

ONE MANUAL

Newsletter

A Quarterly Newsletter

Special Spotlight Edition

Volume 1, Issue 2 Spring 2009

Debate Team Brings Home the Gold

Speech and Debate team brings home the Championship Trophy at the first ever USC Neighborhood Debate League Championship
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JROTC Racks Up Honors at All-City Drill Competition

MAHS Battalion wins top honors and makes history
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Student Researchers Participate in UCLA's Council of Youth Research

Students present their findings in a roundtable policy discussion on the theme of Civic Agency
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MAHS Band Marches to Victory

Music department is expanding their roster and winning competitions
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Academic Decathlon Wins Record Number of Medals

AcaDeca Team celebrates the completion of a successful season
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ISTA Students to Compete in Robotics Competition

ISTA students continue to excel under the training of Mr. John Santos
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Transition Team Undertaking Large-Scale Projects

Since its inception on September 20, 2008, the Manual Arts Transition Team has been meeting regularly to tackle some of the biggest issues on campus. Serving as an advisory committee to existing school governance bodies, the Transition Team has taken a leadership role in areas ranging from Safety, to Integrated Holistic Support for Students and Parents, Professional Development, Student Engagement, and Governance.

The Transition Team has worked diligently over the past five months setting the stage for improved student outcomes. This is a list of some of the key initiatives that are in the works. Several more will be undertaken before the end of the school year.

- A new student "advisory" and teacher's guide. As a replacement to the current "homeroom," this important effort is in development under the guidance of Mr. Octavio Estrella and the SLC leads. The guide will be brought soon to the transition team for input and approval.

- Uniforms for students. Supported by the transition team, parents, and school site council. Additional efforts underway to obtain buy-in from students.
- New leadership, local governance. National search for a permanent principal underway. Existing governing and advisory bodies under review. Recommendations forthcoming from governance sub-committee.
- RMS catalogue. A Resource Management System directory in development that will keep parents and the greater community informed about onsite and community resources.
- A safe school environment. Focus groups on school safety and student discipline have been conducted. Local administration and school police developing new procedures and practices.
- After school programs. A new ad-hoc sub-committee formed in February to evaluate programs and implement a plan.
- A trusting, collaborative professional environment. The transition team is operating under rules of engagement that promote dialogue and consensus. SLCs are considering a new set of norms to guide

professional conduct. Informal monthly social events will occur soon for staff. Monthly Teacher's Lounge hosted by MLA.

- Empowered, informed, engaged student body. New student alliance approved by transition team is being formed. Will participate in research, seek support from student body, and assist with implementation of new initiatives.
- Structured, coherent professional development tied to student outcomes and teacher needs. A teacher survey by professional development sub-committee has identified teachers' needs. Catalogue of PD options under development.

Upcoming Transition Team Dates

April 9, 2009 @ 3:30-5:30
Faculty Cafeteria

May 7, 2009 @ 3:30-5:30
Faculty Cafeteria

All meetings are open to the public.