School Information

County: Los Angeles County
District: Long Beach Unified School District
School: Juan R. Cabrillo High School
Civic Coor: Barbara Doten  Email: bdoten@lbschools.net
Site Admin: Matthew D. Brown  Email: mdbrown@lbschools.net
Principal: Cheryl Cornejo  Email: ccornejo@lbschools.net

Site Validation Team

Date of Visit: April 6, 2016  
Team Leader: Michelle Herczog  Signature: __________________________
Agency: Los Angeles County Office of Education  Phone: (562) 922-6908
Member: __________________________  Signature: __________________________

Site Validation Team Recommendation

☑ The Site Validation Team has validated information to confirm that high quality civic learning is institutionalized to enable every student to participate in a civic inquiry and investigation at least once during their high school career. The team, therefore, recommends that this school be selected as a California Democracy School.

☐ The Site Validation Team was unable to validate the full implementation of high quality civic learning for all students and cannot recommend that this school be selected as a California Democracy School.
Additional Comments

After examining a great deal of evidence, observing classrooms, and interviewing students, teachers, and school administrators, it is abundantly clear that Cabrillo High School has established systems and practices to ensure that all students engage in civic inquiry and investigation activities to prepare them for civic life in the 21st century. There is also ample evidence to confirm that the initiative will be sustained in the years to come as a result of intentional capacity building and commitment of the staff and school community.

Members at Meeting:
- Bernice Banares, Teacher
- Barbara Doten, Civic Coordinator and teacher
- Joey Montalvo, Teacher
- Kim Ben-Haim, Teacher
- Joe Battle, Teacher
- Marika Manos, Curriculum and Instruction, History-Social Science, LBUSD
- Julie Ryan, History Department Chair
- Cheryl Cornejo, Principal
- Matt Brown, Assistant Principal

Evidence of Institutionalization and Sustainability:
- Civic inquiry and investigation is implemented in
  - All 11th grade history classes across the school.
  - Year One – engaged 20 classes in CalJ Small Learning Community.
  - Year Two – engaged 30 classes in CalJ and Engineering and Design Small Learning Communities.
  - Year Three – engaged 70 classes across the school representing a variety of subject areas. All students in these classes participate in at least one civic project.
- American History Civics Inquiry Project adopted at Cabrillo High School.
  - Long Beach USD Junior Research Paper was authorized by Long Beach Board of Education in 2004.
  - Marika Manos, LBUSD History-Social Science Coordinator and US history teachers from Cabrillo modified the Junior Research Paper curriculum to reflect information from the civic learning professional development provided by the California Democracy School Initiative and Mikva Challenge. The goal is to make inquiry relevant to students’ community needs and issues.
  - Pam Seki, LBUSD Asst. Superintendent has approved the project
  - The project is currently being piloted by teachers at Cabrillo High School. Feedback from teachers will be used to update and finalize the project.
  - Course outlines for U.S. History, grades 6-12 are being revised by Marika Manos with teacher input. The final draft of the American History Civics Inquiry Project will be included and sent to the Board of Education for final approval to be implemented in the 2016-17 school year across all high schools.
  - US History is a required (A) course for UC admission that requires a “key assignment.” This project will serve as that requirement.
- Fundamental civic learning practices being implemented beginning in ninth grade.
- This year all ninth and tenth grade teachers in all core areas are engaged in “Equity and Access” training – includes focus on investigative text to motivate students to learn, civil dialogue. Six sessions, all day each.
- “Collaborative Conversations” has been adopted by LBUSD to be used across the district. The protocol aligns with the goals and objectives for the civil dialogue construct for the California Democracy School initiative.
• Other Activities to support civic learning:
  o All 11th grade history teachers attended California Democracy School 3-day training.
  o Topics are connected to historical content of course.
  o Every Academy will have opportunity to participate in one of three town halls each year.
  o “Safe and Civil Committee” focuses on classroom management techniques.
  o Restorative Justice at Cabrillo focuses on community building.
  o Environmental Awareness Club established for students to lead and follow through on various projects such as solar powered electric charging stations and butterfly garden to reduce carbon.
  o Civic Learning Field Trips – National Cesar Chavez Center
  o Mock Trials from CRF
  o Law Week based on themes from American Bar Association Law Day program.
  o Teen Court

Town Hall Experiences for students have addressed issues of
  • Bullying
  • Right to Privacy
  • How should US laws be designed to promote the health, peace, and safety of all its citizens?
  • Should homelessness be criminalized?
  • Mandatory Voting
  • Climate change and well-being of our community

Community Partners include:
  • Karen Anderson, Civil Law Attorney
  • Maria De La Luz Garcia, City Attorney for LB
  • Elsa Ramos, Multi-Service Center Coordinator (Homeless)
  • Larry Rich, Sustainability Officer for Long Beach
  • Leigh Behrens, Recycling Coordinator for Long Beach
  • Councilman Uranga, 7th District, Long Beach

Impact on Students:
  • *I saw excitement in students when they were discussing the issues they had researched.*
  • Students are more engaged and interested in what they are doing because THEY are the ones coming with ideas and thoughts.
  • Students are now talking with people outside their comfort zones – with other students, administrators.
  • Kids no longer accept invisibility – THEY WILL BE HEARD!

Impact on Teaching as described by the Principal:
  • *I’ve seen a new sense of motivation among teachers.*
  • Teachers are really excited about the new strategies.
  • Teachers are seeing the potential of their students – kids are doing more than they thought they could
  • Forms a better community of colleagues that lays a groundwork for better work.
  • Teachers have become a community of risk takers on behalf of students.

Impact on Community:
  • *Parents have become engaged in activities to make their communities safer.*
  • *People from the community are coming to the school to support our work after being involved in Town Hall meetings.*