

Community School Design Team
Alta Loma Elementary
1745 Vineyard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90019

April 3, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Alta Loma Elementary has been a neighborhood school since 1915 and for more than 100 years, we have provided a high quality education to members of our community. It is our intention to achieve Community School designation in 2019 in order to become a more effective resource for our students, alumni, parents and the broader community. We are deeply committed to supporting our students and their families, as well providing needed support services in our neighborhood. Our aim is to become a true hub for the community.

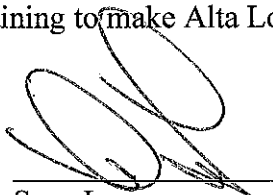
Every day, our teachers, parents, and staff demonstrate commitment to the four pillars of a Community School. Three years ago, our community decided that Alta Loma needed a new leadership direction and after a lengthy search, parents, teachers, and staff offered the position to our principal, Mr. Leyva. Mr. Leyva has shown a deep dedication to the school and he continues to demonstrate the collaborative leadership style that first brought him to Alta Loma. He has helped to empower our teachers and staff, who are dedicated to helping students achieve success. In addition to providing high quality classroom instruction, teachers tutor before and after school, as well as coach our championship athletic teams. Our support staff is also extremely supportive of Alta Loma. Our PSA Counselors created a mentorship program, SHINE (Students Having Integrity Necessary for Empowerment) to prepare girls to become future leaders in our society. Our Teacher's Assistants regularly donate their time and talents to produce school-wide enrichment events, such as Science Night and International Festival. This year we hired two Community Representatives, extended our parent center hours, and now offer an after-school homework club for students and parents.


Alta Loma is a Title I school and we have worked to develop community partnerships in order to provide essential services to our students. Big Smiles Dentistry, Didi Hirsch Counseling Services, and Cedars Sinai "Healthy Habits Program" provide on-campus services to improve the health of both students and parents. For over ten years, "Reading to Kids" has helped students and parents to develop a love of reading by providing monthly literacy workshops. Our Parent Center hosts a free, daily ESL class for adults in our community. Alta Loma students attend free arts workshops at St. Elmo's Village while the Los Angeles Astronomical Society helps to host our annual Astronomy Night. We installed a school garden through a partnership with Enrich LA Garden and are currently in talks to develop our campus as a community playground. Finally, we are expanding the services we provide to community families with non-school age children by developing an infant and toddler story time on our campus in collaboration with the Los Angeles Public Library. Alta Loma has made significant efforts to engage with our community and to communicate with all families in our neighborhood, yet we hope to develop these skills further through the Community Schools cohort training.

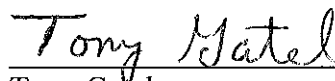
Alta Loma is participating in two initiatives to improve the collaboration within our family of schools. First, our fourth grade teachers are participating in the UCLA Cognitively Guided Instruction Math Cadre in collaboration with Los Angeles High Feeder Schools. This program has led our teachers to develop deep cross-grade level articulation by observing the instruction provided at other schools which has resulted in a collaborative relationship with the 4th grade teachers at Marvin Elementary School. In addition, Alta Loma and Marvin Elementary School will be hosting a three-day Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training in September 2019. Parents and community members from the Los Angeles High Family of Schools will be invited to attend this training which will be presented in collaboration with the Los Angeles Fire Department and the Mid-City Neighborhood Council.

Alta Loma strongly emphasizes collaborative leadership in all our administrative procedures. Our strategic plans and decisions are made through committees, which include teachers, parents, classified staff, and community members. In particular, the School Site Council and the English Learner Advisory Council collaborate on the development of the Single Plan for Student Achievement and decide how best to allocate school funding. We also strive to find ways to incorporate our student leaders into our planning and problem-solving frameworks. We look forward to finding ways to improve and refine our collaborative leadership through the cohort training.

We are confident we are on the right track and are making strong, consistent efforts to serve as a resource for our community. By achieving the Community School designation, we will have the opportunity to receive additional training and professional development to deepen our relationships with other schools, thereby fostering a collaborative and supportive environment for all stakeholders. Designation as a Community School will provide needed resources and training to make Alta Loma Elementary the optimal school for our community for years to come.


Sean Leyva 04/03/2019
Principal, Alta Loma Elementary


Dr. Cheryl P. Hildreth 04/03/2019
Superintendent, LAUSD
Local District West


Tony Gatel 04/03/2019
Chapter Chair, UTLA

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DESIGN TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

A design team should represent all stakeholders of a school – Principal, Teachers, Counselors, Students, Parents, and Community Partners. **FILLABLE FORM**

NAME OF SCHOOL: Alta Loma Elementary School			
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