



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FARMDALE ELEMENTARY
an International Baccalaureate World School

2660 Ruth Swiggett Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90032
Telephone (323) 222-6659 Fax (323) 222-9693
www.farmdalehawks.org

Austin Beutner
Superintendent of Schools

José P. Huerta
Superintendent, Local District East

Oscar Vargas Sandoval
Principal

Pilar Martin Sanchez
APEIS



April 12, 2019

Dear Community Schools Committee,

Farmdale Elementary is one of the only public, elementary, non-charter, inner-city International Baccalaureate (IB) World schools in the district with a K-5th Grade English/Spanish Dual Language Program. Approximately 91% of our students are classified as socioeconomically disadvantaged, and 21% of our students are identified as students with disabilities. These students are both within the general education program and in specialized programs such as Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program and Multiple Disabilities Orthopedic Program. In 2006, Farmdale became an English/Spanish Dual Language school in an effort to highlight the cultural and linguistic strengths of our community. To further provide rigorous instruction to our community, we became authorized as an IB school in 2011 which has allowed us to develop a curriculum that encourages inquiry, agency, and international-mindedness in our students. Given our strong background of community empowerment and inclusion, Farmdale is genuinely interested in becoming a community school.

Farmdale administration and staff realize the importance of providing families with the tools to strengthen parenting skills and the social emotional health of the family unit. Economic hardships, unemployment and the rising housing costs, have caused many of our families to live below the poverty line or work multiple jobs to make ends meet. Some live with relatives or in temporary hotels/shelters in order to avoid homelessness. There has been a notable increase in student stress which impacts peer relations and academics. For this reason, our Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW) has provided our school community with a variety of support services. The PSW uses evidence based practice curriculum FOCUS (Families Overcoming Under Stress) through the partnership with UCLA Center for child anxiety resilience education and support. The PSW also coordinates services such as Operation School Bell event that has provided 120 students from the school and an additional 90 students in Local District East with free backpacks, shoes, toiletries, uniforms, books and jackets. Our PSW assists families with case management and referral linkage to outside mental health agencies such as the Aviva Family and Children's Services and collaborates with the Foster youth counselor to address barriers or concerns that are impacting student attendance. These integrated student supports help Farmdale provide individualized support on an as needed basis.

As a school, we know that education is not solely centered around books and academics. Parents relish the opportunity to see their child excel on various fronts and students need other settings in order to thrive and explore their potential. The Exhibition project is one such opportunity. As a 5th grader at Farmdale, students explore real community issues that matter to them and take action towards solving them. This 4 month process contributes to increased student agency. El Sereno Middle School staff often comment that they can tell which students came from Farmdale. Another opportunity for student growth is the STEM/Robotics club which has competed on various platforms throughout LAUSD and has won several competitions.

Participation in afterschool programs such as LA's Best and EYS afford students opportunities to join different clubs and play a variety of sports. Recently, our LA's Best program sent a team



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to compete in the Science and Engineering Regional Science Fair and won first place. In addition, Farmdale has offered both summer school and after school learning opportunities with a smaller teacher to student ratio which has helped ease the gap of summer loss. These expanded learning opportunities, make Farmdale a place where students are more engaged at school.

Family and community engagement is at the center of our Farmdale philosophy. Dual teachers and parents meet monthly to collaborate with each other to support student achievement and foster a cohesive community of learners. Coffee with the Principal is a monthly meeting that gives parents the opportunity to “chat” with the principal on various topics. Guest speakers are often invited from the community to address the needs and concerns of the school community or to provide access to community resources. In a more official capacity, school meetings such as English Language Advisory Council (ELAC) and School Site Council (SSC) provide formal forums for parent participation. Our SSC has been instrumental in recommending ways to increase student attendance through incentives. Students have enjoyed this opportunity to receive special recognition. In tandem with the Parent Center the PSW provides parents with workshops that have helped nurture a sense of safety, trust, and personal growth. Through participation in our thriving parent center, parents and community members have the opportunity to meet with staff members and other parents to form relationships with each other and engage in leadership opportunities at the school site. According to the school experience survey from 2018-19, 90% strong agree or agree that they feel informed about school activities and welcome to participate on campus.

Farmdale has several existing partnerships with the local community. Barrio Action helps to support parent education and student tutoring. Grifols is a local business, which has donated volunteer time to school activities, monetary donations for our library and computers for our media labs over the past three years. We also have a relationship with Cal State LA who reaches out to us when students need internships or need to complete teacher observation hours. In addition parents and teachers serve on the Neighborhood Council which helps to keep the school updated on community events and concerns. Future relationships might include collaborating with Cal State LA or UCLA to use their educational collateral to support our professional growth. UCLA has expertise with Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), a student-centered approach to teaching math which supports our educational philosophy of inquiry-based learning and the UCLA Latin American Institute which would support our Dual Language program.

When Farmdale Elementary School began offering rigorous programs such as Dual Language and IB, we did so with the good of the community in mind. The journey was championed through a collective of teachers and staff who were ready to take Farmdale to the next level in it’s educational evolvement. The decision to become IB was a team effort between Farmdale, El Sereno Middle School and Wilson High School and all three schools are currently applying to become community schools. This established feeder pattern provides an exciting opportunity to become community schools in tandem and realize a huge shift of support that could truly improve the future of the El Sereno community for years to come.

Proud Principal: Oscar V. Sandoval

Chapter Chair: Thomas Takeshita

Local Superintendent: Jose P. Huerta

ATTACHMENT A

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: Farmdale Elementary, an IB World School			
NAME	ROLE AT SCHOOL (e.g. Teacher, Parent, Principal, Student)	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Oscar Sandoval	Principal	oxs.105@lausd.net	323/222-6659
Thomas Takeshita	UTLA representative	trt1772@lausd.net	323/222-6659
Jennie Mordaunt	Intervention Coordinator	jlm4559@lausd.net	323/222-6659
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Cherie Sanchez	parent	cherieatucker@gmail.com	
Dacia Imakura	parent	dacia@humnet.ucla.edu	
Liliana Ayala	parent community representative	Liliana.ayalaayala@lausd.net	323/222-6659
Maricela Fernandez	Psychiatric Social Worker	maricela.fernandez@lausd.net	323/222-6659
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Mayra Gonzalez	Parent and PTA president	mayglez2016@gmail.com	323/222-6659

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NAME	ROLE AT SCHOOL (e.g., Teacher, Parent, Principal, Student)	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Yesenia Francia	teacher	yesenia.francia@lausd.net	323/222-6659
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