

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

JOHN H. FRANCIS POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL

12431 ROSCOE BLVD, SUN VALLEY, CA 91352

PHONE: (818) 394-3600 FAX: (818) 771-0452

A Pilot School

Austin Beutner

Superintendent of Schools

Linda Del Cueto

Local District Northeast Superintendent

Elidia Vazquez

Principal

April 10, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider John H. Francis Polytechnic High School for selection as a community school. We feel we are ideally positioned to maximize the effectiveness of this program.

School Commitment: Our interest in becoming an LAUSD Community School largely stems from the fact that we meet a lot of the requirements of the District's four pillars already. Here at Poly, we offer many integrated student supports, including meals before and after school, a school psychologist, parent education classes, three community representatives to foster communication with parents, and small learning communities for our students to create a more personalized educational experience.

We also offer free subject-specific tutoring after school, summer school, and college courses for our students throughout the year. We provide Poly students free PSAT testing annually to all grades, provide test fee waivers, after-school SAT training courses, and a full-time college and career coordinator. We have a wide, vibrant spectrum of club offerings to our students, including things specific to their cultures such as Folklorico, the Black Student Alliance, and an LGBT club. We are fortunate to work with KYDS as part of the 21st Century community Learning Centers grant. Through KYDS we offer multiple academic and enrichment activities beyond the school day. We have a very successful peer-mentoring program where our students get support from their older peers, something we have found to be very powerful. Last but certainly not least, we work closely with Lewis Continuation School, offering before and after-school classes to help students graduate on time.

We also feature a very effective parent education center that helps parents build their own knowledge and informs them of the opportunities for their children at Poly. We coach them on how they can help their children achieve academic success. As a pilot school, we are already run collaboratively by an elected governance council that includes, by its design, parents and students. We make decisions by consensus, with the aim of what's best for our students as our guide. The involvement of our stake-holders is crucial to this vision.

With expanded funding, we would like to enrich these programs and increase our health services to our students and the surrounding community. Additionally, we would foster partnerships with local businesses to create job-training and internship programs. Having a dedicated coordinator would help our connection to parents and other members of the local community, which in turn would make both Poly and the District stronger. We would aim to create an after-school mentorship program for students without adequate support at home, expand our mental health services, and offer more drug awareness, prevention and treatment support.

School Partnerships: We already have established relationships with several health care partners. Vision to Learn provides eyesight testing, Big Smiles offers dental services, and Mission City Community Network runs a mobile clinic that provides students and families physical exams, immunizations, family planning, and STD testing. Hathaway Sycamores Child and Family Services and the San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center provide school-based mental health services to students with Medi-Cal. The San Fernando Valley

Partnership offers parents and students education on drug abuse, and El Nido partners with us to provide out-patient substance abuse services. They also have "teen parent" parenting services (support groups, case management, and linkage to social services). We have an established parent center, and Outside.org, Proyecto El Barrio, Hermandad Mexicana and Pacoima Beautiful help us with parent education. We also partner with Survivors Rise to aid victims of crime, providing free case management services, court advocacy, and linkage to community resources. We would hope that becoming an LAUSD Community School would help us maintain and expand these types of services to our students, their families, and the neighboring community.

We plan to reach out to our local businesses and form partnerships for training, internships, and job-placement. We look forward to re-establishing partnerships with Kaiser Permanente and LADWP, as well as local retail stores that offer positions for students on both the general and alternate curriculum. In the past we had access to more vocational training and services for our students, unfortunately, these were a victim of budget cuts. As an LAUSD Community School, we would aim to foster and maintain these relationships and programs, as our WASC-stated goal is to make our students college and *career*-ready. We would also strive to strengthen our existing ties with local colleges, predominantly Valley College and CSUN, being the two nearest and the two most-attended by our graduates.

Family of Schools: We feel that Poly HS is centrally located to provide services to a large number of LAUSD students and their families. There are nine LAUSD schools within two miles of our campus: Byrd MS, which is directly across the street, Sun Valley, which has both a MS and a HS on their campus, Strathern, Saticoy, Vena, Korenstein, Fernangeles and Arminta Elementary Schools, Lowman Special Education Center and Lewis Continuation School, which is right next door. We would be happy to provide these schools access to our services, as well as any other schools that make sense geographically.

Collaborative Leadership: Poly is a pilot school, run by an elected governance council consisting of teachers, administrators, students and their parents. We reach decisions by consensus, and we have a culture of cooperation that serves the needs of our students very well. Poly is a community where we make decisions with the best interest of our students as our guiding principle. Even before we became a pilot school, the faculty and administration worked as a team, and the governance council has only strengthened our common bond to serve our student population. Becoming a community school would only increase involvement among our parents and community leaders. Recently, we've committed to changing our opening and closing parent nights into community fairs that educate parents about all Poly has to offer their children in terms of tutoring, special education, college counseling, A.P. classes, sports, clubs and vocational training. We feel that these fairs establish our role in the community and our unwavering commitment to it.

In closing, we feel that Poly High School is ideally situated and has the vision to maximize the District's new Community School program, and we hope to be selected in order to better serve our students, their families, and the surrounding public. We feel it would strengthen both our and the District's position in the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Elidia Vazquez
Principal
Superintendent



Jeff Herrold
UTLA Chairperson



Linda Del Cueto
Local District Northeast

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: John H. Francis Polytechnic High School | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| NAME | ROLE AT SCHOOL (e.g., Teacher, Parent, Principal, Student) | EMAIL | PHONE NUMBER |
| Elidia Vazquez | Principal | evazq1@lausd.net | 818-388-8954 |
| Elizabeth Oliveros | 11th Grade Counselor | eeo8980@lausd.net | 818-394-3906 |
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| Yesenia Pleitez | Title I Coordinator | ypleitez@lausd.net | 818-394-3635 |
| Colleen Ancrile | Teacher | colleen.ancrile@lausd.net | 818-394-3600 |
| Ana De Jesus | Parent | ana7806@sbcglobal.net | 818-205-4110 |
| Teresa Rios | Community Rep. | teresa.rios@lausd.net | 818-394-3627 |
| Mario Quinteros | Teacher | mrq7620@lausd.net | 818-394-3600 |
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