



Los Angeles Unified School District
Vine Street Elementary School

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Austin Beutner
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

CHERYL HILDRETH
INSTRUCTIONAL AREA SUPERINTENDENT

Kurt S. Lowry, Ed. D.
PRINCIPAL

April 9th, 2019

Subject: Vine Street School (Pre-K-Gr. 6) Letter of Intent – Community School Designation

Dear LAUSD Community School Selection Committee:

We, the stakeholders of Vine Street School, eagerly submit this Letter of Intent to commence the application process for the purpose of gaining District designation as a Community School!

First, we believe that our school community “crackles” with great potential and that our desire for our school to be designated a Community School is a natural next step in our school’s renaissance. Our school has enjoyed a long and proud tradition of service to generations of families as the “flagship elementary school” in the “Heart of Hollywood” since 1909. Our application also represents a turning point in our school’s trajectory that must be made in order for us to remain a viable educational option for parents in a competitive climate of school choice and change. Our application represents our desire to preserve and protect our storied past while courageously preparing our school for the next hundred years!

Secondly, we should be selected as one of the LAUSD’s twenty Community Schools because our stakeholders are 100% committed to the four tenets of what it means to be a Community School. Please note and consider the following:

Integrated Student Supports – We are 100% committed to removing barriers to success by connecting our students and families to a number of integrated programs and services. We offer a Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) that includes a renewed focus on standards-based, differentiated “First Instruction” and implementation of schoolwide instructional initiatives. To support students’ achievement in the classroom, we seek to expand our menu of integrated student support services offered through key partnerships with *Uplift Family Services*, *Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles*, *Healthy Start*, *Young Storytellers*, *Conga Kids!*, *Operation School Bell*, and more. Our in-house Student Success and Progress Team (SSPT), social-emotional counseling services, academic intervention programs, “Adopt-a-Unicorn” mentorship program, and signature morning laps program, “Vine Victory Laps!” address a variety of needs. Our intent is to offer integrated services throughout our day to support learning.

Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities – We are 100% committed to expanding student learning time, opportunities, and resources for our students and families. In addition to our daily instructional program, we are committed to providing standards-based, targeted, intensive, before-school and after-school academic instruction and tutoring programs, homework assistance, counseling services, and/or other academic enrichment programs. We are also 100% committed to providing workshops and vocational skills training for our Vine Important Parents (VIPs). During Summer months and weekends, we welcome the opportunity to maintain similar levels of support and training so as to maintain continuity of learning.

Family and Community Engagement – We are 100% committed to incorporating strategies that better support communication between school and home. In addition to traditional home-school communications, we are proud to have been selected a recipient of the LAUSD’s “Parent Center Improvement Grant” which promises to transform our Parent Center into a hub of continuous parent engagement, learning, and involvement. Our school is committed to increasing the number of truly empowering parent engagement opportunities that go beyond attendance at assemblies, decorating for the holidays, and “Breakfast in the Classroom.” As one example, our “Vine Important Parents” (VIPs) will participate in instructionally-focused professional development opportunities similar to those in which our teachers and staff participate. Finally, as we write this letter, we await the delivery and installation of our new, electronic marquee that will enhance communication with our school community and public!

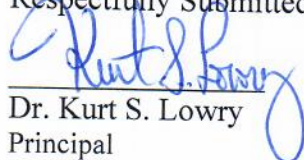
School Partnerships – We are 100% committed to building and expanding strong partnerships in support of students, families, and community. We are proud to partner with: Uplift Family Services, 9 Dots “getCoding!”, Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood, Cahuenga Park, Beyond the Bell “Youth Services” and LA’s BEST, “EnrichLA,” “Conga Kids!” ballroom dance, LA Public Library (Fremont), LAUSD’s “Creative Arts Network,” “Project Angel Food,” Girl Scouts, Farmers Insurance, LA Works, Hollywood Forever Cemetery (Dia De Los Muertos), 7 Eleven, LA City Attorney, “Young Storytellers!”, Healthy Start, LAPD Hollywood Division, Children’s Hospital of LA, LAUSD Boardmember Nick Melvoin, LA City Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell, and more!

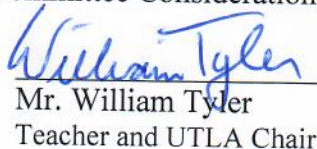
Family of Schools (Feeder Pattern) – We are 100% committed to working in collaborative partnership with all of the schools within our feeder pattern (Vine Early Ed. Center, Hollywood Primary Center, Bancroft MS, LeConte MS, Hollywood HS, Fairfax HS) on any number of projects and matters of mutual interest and need, including: establishing a coherent pathway of instructional initiatives and enrichment programs, coordinated before and after-school care, school and community safety collaborative, health and wellness services, student articulation opportunities, parenting education classes, and more. Our designation as a Community School will complement our respective efforts to provide a seamless menu of services from Pre-K-12.

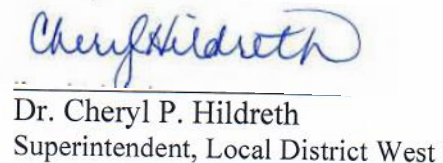
Collaborative Leadership – We are 100% committed to a collaborative decision-making and school governance model that empowers all stakeholders. During the past year, our school entered into an important partnership with InnovateED Educational Consultants to help us establish and implement structures to support improved instructional cohesion through a collaborative decision-making and leadership model that is based on the tenet of “leading from the middle.” As a result of our participation in this unique partnership this year, our school is prepared to continue our transformative work by leading from the center with all voices heard.

We hope the Community School selection committee agrees with us that our Vine Street School Community “crackles” with potential for great success as a Community School!

Respectfully Submitted for Committee Consideration,


Dr. Kurt S. Lowry
Principal


Mr. William Tyler
Teacher and UTLA Chair


Dr. Cheryl P. Hildreth
Superintendent, Local District West

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: VINE STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL			
NAME	ROLE AT SCHOOL (e.g., Teacher, Parent, Principal, Student)	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
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