

# Los Angeles Unified School District

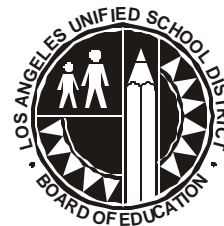
## OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

333 S. Beaudry Ave., 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Phone: (213) 241-6766

FAX: (213) 241-8952

[www.lausd.net](http://www.lausd.net)



# News Release

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## **LAUSD SCHOOL RANKED AMONG TOP PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN U.S. BY *NEWSWEEK* MAGAZINE**

**LOS ANGELES**—The Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies (LACES) in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has been ranked among the top 50 public high schools in the United States by *Newsweek* magazine in its upcoming May 8, 2006 issue.

In the weekly magazine's cover story entitled, "2006 America's Best High Schools," the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies, a magnet school located in Los Angeles' Fairfax District, was ranked 45<sup>th</sup> among the nation's top public high schools. Another 34 LAUSD high schools earned places of honor on *Newsweek's* list of top 1,000 and beyond public high schools.

"These high schools are challenging their students to aim high by cultivating a college-going culture on campus," said Marlene Canter, President of the Los Angeles Board of Education. "I expect to see more high schools added to this list as the A-G curriculum is implemented district wide."

"This is a wonderful honor to have one of our high schools acknowledged as among the top 50 in the country," added School Superintendent Roy Romer. "Too often public schools in large urban districts are viewed as failing and ineffective. To receive this recognition is proof that public schools are succeeding in educating children despite challenging circumstances that interfere with the learning process. This honor by *Newsweek* validates the hard work and dedication of our teachers, administrators and staff, but most importantly our students and parents/guardians."

All the schools listed were ranked according to a ratio called the Challenge Index that's based on the number of Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) tests taken by all students at their school in 2005 divided by the number of graduating seniors.

*Newsweek* then uses the figures to measure how committed a school is to helping students take

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college-level courses.

“With our Best High Schools list, *Newsweek* recognizes schools that do the best job of preparing average students for college,” the article stated.

“District 1 is very proud of the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies (LACES) and its consistent attainment of outstanding academic achievement and the national recognition it continues to receive,” said Los Angeles Board of Education member Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte, whose district includes LACES. “This is yet another honor the district is acknowledging in addition to its recent national ranking in the U.S. Academic Decathlon and U.S. Science Bowl competitions. Kudos to the staff, students, parents/guardians and LACES community.”

“LACES has provided the opportunities for all students who have committed themselves to taking rigorous AP classes. The accolades go to the teachers, as well as the AP coordinator/college counselor, because they are the ones who encourage our students to excel and take these challenging exams,” added Margaret Kim, LACES’ principal.

LACES was previously recognized as a top school by *Newsweek* magazine in 2005 and 2003. Over the years, the school has received numerous honors and distinctions as both a National Blue Ribbon School and a California Distinguished School. LACES has more than 1,625 students and boasted an Academic Performance Index (API) of 822 in 2005.

Also ranked among *Newsweek*’s top 1,000 public schools are the following LAUSD high schools:

- North Hollywood High School (210)
- Palisades Charter High School (247)
- Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies (324)
- Bravo Medical Magnet High School (347)
- Marshall High School (397)
- Eagle Rock High School (409)
- Foshay Learning Center (414)
- Van Nuys High School (433)
- King Drew Medical Magnet (452)
- Downtown Business Magnet (518)
- Granada Hills Charter High School (535)
- Cleveland High School (577)
- El Camino Real High School (591)
- Fremont High School (652)

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- Hamilton High School (737)
- Reseda High School (778)
- Lincoln High School (794)
- Canoga Park High School (795)
- Manual Arts High School (825)
- Bell High School (832)
- Carson High School (865)
- Venice High School (893)
- Monroe High School (922)
- University High School (970)
- Franklin High School (973)
- Taft High School (991)

Those LAUSD schools ranked beyond the 1,000<sup>th</sup> mark are:

- Chatsworth High School (1,029)
- Wilson High School (1,055)
- Jefferson High School (1,075)
- Hollywood High School (1,126)
- Narbonne High School (1,132)
- Locke High School (1,141)
- Garfield High School (1,142)
- South Gate (1,196)

The *Newsweek* recognition is one more in a series of honors that the LAUSD has recently received including this past weekend's 2006 U.S. Academic Decathlon championship and second-place finish at the National Science Bowl competition held in Washington, D.C.

In addition, an unprecedented 32 LAUSD elementary schools recently won the 2006 California Distinguished School Awards by the State Department of Education. Another 52 of the LAUSD's Title 1 schools have been recognized by the California Department of Education for improving academic achievement in spite of difficult odds.

Lastly, Lawrence Middle School math teacher Margaret "Peg" Cagle has won the nation's highest honor, the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

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