

PANTHER PRESS

PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER

January 2023

Volume 1

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Parents of English Learners - Join ELAC!

The English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) is a school-level council composed of parents, staff, and community members designated to advise school officials on English learner programs and services.

All are welcome to our next ELAC Meeting on Thursday, January 12th at 4pm via Zoom (Zoom Code: 829 2137 6650). We will be focusing on how to support our student reclassification goals.

For more information, please contact **Mr. Lubiano** at arbin.lubiano@lausd.net or **Mrs. Morales** at berenice.morales@lausd.net.

Visit our ELAC page at:

<https://manncs.gseis.ucla.edu/community/elac/>

What is BSAP?



We believe that successful black student achievement is defined by high academic performance, strong social-emotional awareness and management, and positive cultural identity. The Black Student Achievement Plan (BSAP) was developed to address the longstanding disparities in educational outcomes between Black students and their non-Black peers. The Plan was fought for by Black students, parents, community members, grass roots organizations and UTLA working collaboratively for change. BSAP provides a foundation for culturally relevant curriculum and positive school experiences for our students, as well as a path to push for district wide systemic changes. BSAP also provides increased staffing support to address the academic and social-emotional needs of Black students and fosters partnerships with community-based organizations with proven track records of success within the Black community. With BSAP we now have a program that is grounded in validating the historical and daily experiences of our Black students. (cont. on the next page)

Announcements...

from Mann UCLA CS

We are on Winter Break between 12/17/22 and 01/08/22. School resumes on Monday 01/09 at 8:30 AM.

from UTLA

UTLA News: Negotiations for the new contract between UTLA and LAUSD are ongoing. Thank you to all parents, family, and community members that rallied with us on December 5th to show support for UTLA's platform: equitable access to education, technology, and funding; healthy, safe, and fully-staffed schools; and more support for our students, families, and communities.

To learn more about UTLA goals and activities, go to <https://utla.net/issues/>

from BSAP

Join the BSAP Parent and Community Schoology Group!
Join Code: JM4G-MQVR-J6KDT

What is BSAP? (cont.)

Parents and Students: Be on the lookout for a BSAP Orientation coming late winter.

To download a copy of LAUSD's Black Student Achievement Plan, please **CLICK HERE**.

Please check out our BSAP page on Mann UCLA's website: <https://manncs.gseis.ucla.edu/bsap/>

Study Hall

Mann UCLA is committed to providing an educational experience that will assist our students in becoming leaders in their career of choice. Starting in February, we will be implementing Study Hall. The goal is to help students with their class assignments or homework. It is open to all students, and mandatory for those in academic difficulty. The scheduled hours will be announced next month.



Updates from Athletics

Mann Athletics provides a benefit in developing not only the physical skills, but the social and emotional skills student-athletes need as they move into the next step in their lives: higher education, vocational, etc. In light of this, a primary focus is Being Students First where the program abides by district academic requirements. Moreover, participation helps our athletes be more competitive in applying to institutions of higher education as it shows students can handle more than just academics.

In addition, we also include a community service component to ensure we have well rounded students and have a focus on developing the community around us. Furthermore, sports develop cooperation and other skills outside of the classroom. It teaches grit and perseverance to push through adversity, which is a transferable skill in tackling academics.

Join Governance and Make Decisions about Mann!

Mann UCLA is governed by a council which includes teachers, administrators, parents, community members, students, and UCLA partners. Parents and family members are encouraged to join a governance subcommittee to make sure your voice is heard in decisions regarding our instruction, calendar, discipline systems, and funding. Below are brief descriptions of our current subcommittees:

- **Student Leadership & Experiences:** This committee represents student voice on campus and in the community, organizing events, clubs, and other extracurricular activities for students. Also supports the Associated Student Body, our Students Deserve chapter, and Senior/8th Grade events planning.
- **Empowerment Curriculum & Instruction:** This committee supports curriculum-building, lesson planning, instruction, and assessment through an empowerment and inclusion lens. Also supports the Instructional Learning Team and Professional Development for teachers.
- **English Learning and Special Education Supports:** This committee ensures that all learners on campus are represented and supported. Also supports the English Language Advisory Committee and our Special Education department.
- **Restorative Practices and Socio-Emotional Learning:** This committee reviews and organizes our discipline, counseling, and restorative justice programs. Also supports teachers and staff with implementing socio-emotional learning.
- **Outreach:** This committee produces the monthly parent newsletter and interfaces with community partners. Also supports the Parent Center.
- **Research & Accountability:** This committee reviews and monitors research-practice partnerships on campus. Also collects and analyzes data to help our community understand needs and strengths.
- **Resources & Development:** This committee assesses and plans for long-term needs, including agreements with the district, WASC certification, and campus development projects.

Contact Ms. Venkatesh at shriya.venkatesh@lausd.net to join a committee!

Mann UCLA Community School & UCLA

By Dr. Jody Priselac and Dr. Christine Shen



Horace Mann Junior High was founded in 1926 and was a pillar of the community, serving more than 1,500 students yearly. Over recent years enrollment started declining impacted by the growth of charter schools in the neighborhood, leaving this historic public school struggling to remain open. By 2017 less than 300 students attended Horace Mann. Because of the success LAUSD and UCLA achieved in creating the UCLA Community School at the RFK site, LAUSD reached out to UCLA and asked to partner again at Mann Middle School. UCLA started a planning process in 2015 with Mann leaders, teachers, and the community to develop a plan to transform Mann into a school that brought back the neighborhood students. In the fall of 2017, the Horace Mann UCLA Community School was established to become a 6-12 school that served the community and prepared students for college and career opportunities. Mann UCLA opened with students in grades 6 through 9, grew a grade level each year, and became a 6-12 school with its first graduating class in 2021.

UCLA and Mann UCLA have worked together to build relationships, earn trust, engage the community, enrich student activities, hire new teachers, and provide them with coaching, professional development, and a strong curriculum. We are engaging units across UCLA – education, social welfare, dentistry, medicine, performing arts, and athletics - to engage at the school. We are securing outside funding to support technology, parent engagement, college culture, and teaching. We asked the Mann community to believe that we are in for the long haul and want to work with them to create a school they would be proud to have their children attend.

Here are some examples of the kind of programs UCLA has been able to bring to Mann UCLA:

- **College Access:** In partnership with the Keck Foundation, UCLA School of Education, LA Promise Neighborhoods, College Access Partnerships, Inc., multiple organizations, individuals, and grant-funded programs have come together to provide resourcing, direct services, scholarships, and other college and career opportunities to support Mann students. Outcomes have included additional mentors, coaching and counseling services for students; stipends for Mann educators to support financial aid support, college admission writing workshops, and other supportive college advocacy roles; field trips to colleges in LA County, California, and across the nation; summer college mentors to ensure a seamless transition for the first year of college; college scholarships for graduating seniors; funding for laptops and other resources to support students the first year of college; summer work opportunities for Mann College Alumni; and, continual outreach to support our network of current and past Mann students to ensure success to and through college.
- **Professional Learning:** In partnership with the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Mann UCLA CS has had access to additional funds and facilitation support to assist teacher collaboration for the development of schoolwide instructional goals, aligning the PDSA process with the district assessment cycle process, support department instructional decisions, and facilitating constructive conversations within the school instructional leadership team to support school-wide instructional goals and outcomes.

Mann UCLA Community School & UCLA (cont.)

- **Summer Institute:** Through the partnership, UCLA has collaborated with LAUSD to fund academic programs, enrichment opportunities, and UCLA UniCamp. Since the Summer of 2016, we have funded 100-150 students annually to participate in a 6-week summer enrichment program that culminates in a week-long residential camp program in the San Bernardino mountains. Partners in the work over the years have included: the UCLA School of Music, UCLA Confucius Institute, UCLA Subject Matter Project, UCLA Theatre, Film and TV, UCLA School of Music, College Access Partnerships, Inc., UCLA BruinCorps, etc.
- **Music Programs:** Established in 2021, the Goffin and King Foundation, Music Universe, Inc, and the UCLA School of Music partnered with Mann UCLA CS to provide in-person music instruction, songwriting courses, summer music performance classes, and other musical experiences for all our interested middle schoolers and a smaller cohort of our high schoolers.
- **New Wellness Clinic:** Established in 2022, the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA Advanced Heart Failure, UCLA Relational Medicine Foundation, Saving Hearts Foundation, and the UCLA School of Education and Information Studies have partnered with Mann UCLA CS to support the WeCreate (Wellness Collaborative for Research & Activities to Transform and Empower) Initiative. This collaboration is intended to provide free Electrocardiogram (EKG) heart screenings to our students and their families.



Our first event brought world-renowned doctors to speak with students about heart health and healthy heart practices, interviewed students about their health background and any symptoms or concerns, and provided our student-athletes with an EKG exam. For many of the students, if not all, it was the first time they had received an EKG as part of their health care. The continued partnership aims to provide free screenings throughout the year and educate young community members to empower them to take control of their heart health and positively impact their health trajectories for the rest of their lives.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read an article written about our heart clinic event: [SEIS, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine WeCREATE Initiative Provides Heart Screening to Student Athletes at Mann UCLA Community School](#)

Panther Parent Q&A



Have any questions for Ms. Brice, our Parent Center Coordinator, that other parents could benefit from? Send us your questions and we will include the answers in next month's newsletter!
latikke.brice@lausd.net

Families, stay connected!

There are many ways to stay up to date with everything happening at Mann UCLA Community School:

- **School Website:** Regularly check our school website. There is a monthly announcements page that is updated weekly, a school calendar, and posts about the latest events for our students, family, and community.
<https://manncs.gseis.ucla.edu/>
- **Follow us on Instagram:** @mannuclacs
- **Call us (during school hours):** (323) 541-1900