A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL/DIRECTOR, LINDA PIERCE

Dear CHAMPS Community,

We enter the new year and new decade with enthusiasm. CHAMPS is fifteen years old and has many years ahead of it. As you read through this newsletter, a common theme of expansion and growth based on our core mission exists.

**CHAMPS educates, guides, and inspires critical and creative thinking through artistic experience.**

While it is common for high schools to promote being college preparatory, CHAMPS goes further, we believe all students should graduate being college and career ready upon graduation. The end goal of high school should not only be college acceptance but should include a career.

Of all the career industries, the Arts, Media, and Entertainment sector requires perhaps the greatest cross-disciplinary interaction because the work in this sector has a propensity to be largely project-based, requiring both independent work and interdependent management skills for career success. New technologies are also constantly reshaping the boundaries and skill sets of many arts career pathways. Consequently, core arts-sector occupations demand constantly varying combinations of artistic imagination, metaphoric representation, symbolic connections, and technical skills. Successful career preparation involves both broad and in-depth academic and technical preparation as well as the cultivation of twenty-first-century skill assets, such as flexibility, problem-solving abilities, and interpersonal skills. Learning the skills and knowledge for creating, refining, and sharing work in the Arts, Media, and Entertainment industry sector promotes teamwork, communication, creative thinking, and decision-making abilities—traits that are necessary to function successfully in the competitive and media-rich twenty-first century. (Art Media Entertainment - Standards and Framework, CA Dept of Education)

During the first semester, the digital media arts classrooms were upgraded with new Apple Mac computers, and a music classroom was outfitted with a new digital keyboard lab. Students next year will be able to join our new academy, Programming and Game Design, where students will develop foundational knowledge in game design, animation, graphics, and computer software and hardware. Furthermore, students will apply skills in Mathematics, Physics, English Language Arts, Social Science, and Entrepreneurship. Most importantly, students will learn the twenty-first-century skills of creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and technical expertise, which will increase employment capacity across the job market. Membership in the academy will prepare a student for both entry-level employment and additional postsecondary training needed for advancement in the highly competitive game design industry.
On February 24, students will attend CHAMPS’s first career fair. It is our goal to make this an annual event to expose students to the variety of occupations that exist. Additionally, CHAMPS will be taking the entire 11th-grade class to the NACAC college conference in Pasadena. The event exposes students with hundreds of colleges and universities in one location. Meanwhile, CHAMPS continues to expand its relationship with local community colleges by offering dual enrollment classes at CHAMPS.

While high school is a four-year term, CHAMPS is committed to providing opportunities and experiences that lead to a lifetime of personal fulfillment.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 2-3: Enrollment & Program Update
Page 3-4: Academy Updates
Page 4: ESports
Page 4-5: SLO Award Winners
Page 5: Upcoming Events
Page 5: Athletic Updates
Page 5-6: CAASPP Testing Schedule
Page 6: Student Government Update
Page 6-8: Coronavirus Information & FAQ
Page 8: The Truth About Vaping
Page 9: Opioids: It’s A Crisis
Page 10: Tobacco: The Facts
Page 10: PTSA Substance Abuse Awareness Night
Page 11: Election Update

ENROLLMENT & PROGRAM UPDATE: Let’s Keep Growing!

We’d like to begin by saying thank you.

You have chosen and continue to choose CHAMPS Charter High School of the Arts for your high school, and we recognize that it is a choice. We are grateful for you, your continued support, and your investment in our collective future. We are proud to serve you!

Referrals and word of mouth endorsements are two huge ways for us to continue driving forward together. Your words about CHAMPS play a huge part in keeping our community together.
● **Freshman Lottery**

○ Our Freshman lottery remains open through Monday, February 17. Please encourage your loved ones, friends, neighbors, and others to learn more about why you continue to choose CHAMPS! We are a very tight community, and we rely on all of our stakeholders to help us continue growing.

○ Miss the Lottery? No problem! Students can still apply after our lottery and can be awarded entrance accordingly.

○ To Apply: [www.tinyurl.com/CHAMPSAdmissions](http://www.tinyurl.com/CHAMPSAdmissions)

● **Applications for Grades 10-12**

○ Applications for Grades 10-12 will begin being accepted in March. For additional applications and referrals, please visit [www.tinyurl.com/CHAMPSAdmissions](http://www.tinyurl.com/CHAMPSAdmissions).

● **New in 2020-21: Programming & Game Design and Global Impact!**

○ Beginning next school year, CHAMPS will be home to nine different academies with our introduction of the brand new Programming & Game Design Academy!

  ■ **The Why:** 21st century students are blossoming into a technology-based world where coding skills are in high demand.

  ■ **The What:** Students will be taught programming skills through the creative game design process. Students take inspiration from the diverse library of games that have been created: from Pong to Fortnite and Tetris to Destiny.

● **Global Impact**

○ The Why: Our previously branded Liberal Arts academy has shifted gears, revamped, and evolved to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. We recognize that the landscape of the world is constantly shifting, and as leaders in the field of education, it is our responsibility to embrace
change in an effort to create a better future.

○ The What: Students will take global social issues and engage their local communities in creating positive change. This academy focuses on the humanities and includes coursework such as sociology, psychology, anthropology and criminology.

● ESPORTS!

○ We are THRILLED to announce the launch of our ESPORTS Team! This generation of students is greatly excited by the possibilities the digital world presents, and we’re proud to be a leader in the field.

**What is esports?**

Esports takes video gaming to another level with organized competitive gameplay between two teams, governed by its own strict set of rules and guidelines. It demands critical thinking, communication, teamwork and creativity in order for students to succeed.

Today, esports is growing exponentially with over 400 million fans worldwide and regularly selling out arenas around the world. Currently, there are more than 200 colleges and universities offering millions of dollars in scholarships. Establishing esports in high school enables students to do what they love and provides them with additional opportunities to earn recognition.

○ Did You Know? There are more than 200 colleges and universities offering nearly tens of millions of dollars in scholarships for ESPORTS!

**SLO AWARD WINNERS**

*Description:* Our Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs) ensure that every student who graduates will be a champion of…

- **Academic Excellence:** Proficient or above in the areas of English Literature, History, Mathematics, Science, World Language, and Performing Arts/Technology
- **Social Responsibility:** Energized citizens prepared to lead their communities by example toward a peaceful and healthy environment.
- **Self-Expression:** Creative thinkers able to evaluate, organize, and produce solutions in a complex technological and artistic world with practical and theoretical foundations.
● **Life-Long Learning:** Skilled in critical thinking strategies necessary to adapt to a rapidly evolving world.

*Winners:* Each grade level nominates several candidates across all four spheres, and we’re proud to announce the following honorees per grade level in Academic Excellence, Social Responsibility, Self-Expression, and Life-Long Learning.

**Academic Excellence:** Adriana Garcia (9), Dexton Ratchford (10), Noi Kertis-Sella (11), Zachary Dana (12)

**Social Responsibility:** Sophie Muncy (9), Greta Butler (10), Jennifer Contreras (11), Aneth Flores Macias (12)

**Self-Expression:** Emma Simpson (9), Rowan Kinchla (10), DJ Linear (11), Kate Schneiderman (12)

**Life-Long Learning:** Lia Rubin (9), Tony Berger (10), Jagan Fretz (11), Sabrian Pachon (12)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Week of 2/10: Spirit Week! Students are encouraged to dress up in theme.  
  *Presented by Student Government*
- Monday, 2/17: Presidents Day—School Closed
- Wednesday, 2/19: “Girls” Theatre Performance — Black History Month Event
- Friday, 2/21: CHAMPS Talent Show on Campus South (7:00-9:00PM)
- Monday, 2/24: CHAMPS Career Fair!
- Monday, 2/24: CHAMPS Board of Directors Meeting
- Wednesday, 2/26: PTSA Substance Abuse Awareness Night
- Thursday, 2/27: Coffee with the Principal (State of CHAMPS)
- Friday, 2/28 & Saturday, 2/29: *The Bold, The Young, and The Murdered* (Level 3 Theatre Academy)

**ATHLETICS**

- Basketball Is Back! The girls and boys basketball teams will play their first game on Wednesday, February 26 at the Mid Valley YMCA.
  - Girls: 2:15 tipoff
  - Boys: 3:15 tipoff

**UPCOMING TESTING**

In just under one month, our State Testing Window will begin.  
We want to stress the shared importance of the CAASPP test for your student(s) and for us as a school, so we can reflect on how we have prepared your child(ren). Please ensure your student(s) has/have received appropriate sleep, appropriate nutrition, and continues to maintain the habits of a healthy lifestyle.

**CAASPP Schedule**
STUDENT GOVERNMENT UPDATE

- Spirit Week: This event is designed to promote school culture, community, and friendship. We invite all of our students to take part and show why they continue to choose CHAMPS!

- Valentine’s Day Grams: During Valentine’s Day Week, we will be selling Valentine’s Day Grams for $1 at lunch on Campus South.

- Talent Show: This event is designed to display the unique gifts, talents, and creativity we are proud to house within the CHAMPS community.

CORONAVIRUS INFO FOR FAMILIES

We are writing to share some tips to help you and your child stay healthy, as we are in the middle of the cold and flu season. To avoid getting sick or spreading illnesses, it is important to:

- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Avoid unnecessarily touching your eyes, nose, or mouth after washing your hands.
- Cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue or sleeve, not your hand;
- Keep your child at home if she/he has a fever, until she/he no longer has a fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
- Staying home when you are sick, too.

We are also aware some parents have raised questions or concerns about the coronavirus (“2019-nCoV”) based on recent news reports.

Please know that according to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, there is no immediate public threat in Los Angeles at this time. The best thing you or your child can do to stay healthy is to follow the tips above.

To get the latest and most accurate information, visit the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Website at http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/.

Thank you for helping to keep our kids healthy and safe!
RESPONSES TO FAQs REGARDING CORONAVIRUS

Media reports about the 2019 novel coronavirus have caused anxiety among some families and led to questions about what it means for children. Please be assured: the coronavirus poses little to no risk for Los Angeles students at this time. Health & safety remain the top priority for our CHAMPS Community, and we will continue monitoring the situation and taking necessary steps to keep our kids healthy.

Below are responses to the questions that have been frequently asked about the coronavirus.

Question 1:  Is there a high risk of getting the coronavirus if I live in Los Angeles?
Answer 1:  No. The L.A. County Department of Public Health has determined that there is no immediate public threat in Los Angeles at this time.

Question 2:  Is it safe to send my child to school?
Answer 2:  Yes. Currently, the risk of contracting the coronavirus is low throughout L.A. County, and there have not been any cases of the illness found in our schools.

Question 3:  What is a “coronavirus”?
Answer 3:  A coronavirus is a family of viruses that cause diseases ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory illness. Among humans, coronaviruses are most commonly spread from an infected person to others through coughing and sneezing; close personal contact; and touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching one’s mouth, nose, or eyes before handwashing. There is no cure for a coronavirus, but many of the symptoms can often be treated.

Question 4:  I’ve heard this virus referred to as a “novel coronavirus.” What does that mean?
Answer 4:  There are different types of coronavirus. A “novel coronavirus” means that this coronavirus hasn’t been seen before. It’s new.

Question 5:  How can I protect myself against the coronavirus?
Answer 5:  Do the same things you would do to prevent getting or spreading the common flu. These include:

- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoiding unnecessary touching of your eyes, nose, or mouth after washing your hands.
- Covering your sneeze or cough with a tissue or sleeve, not your hand.
- Keeping your child at home if she/he has a fever, until she/he no longer has a fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications).
- Staying home when you are sick, too.
Question 6: Should students and school staff wear masks to protect themselves?
Answer 6: No, masks are not recommended. They are not an effective method of general prevention. Handwashing provides better protection from infectious diseases.

Question 7: What is the school district doing to keep our kids safe?
Answer 7: Los Angeles Unified is working closely with the L.A. County Department of Public Health and U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor the situation. Additional staff have been deployed to the District Nursing Services hotline (213-202-7575) to answer questions that come in. And, helpful resources have been posted on the District’s webpage (achieve.lausd.net), so the community remains informed.

Question 8: Where can I go for more information?
Answer 8: You can contact LAUSD’s District Nursing Services at (213) 202-7575. You can also visit the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health website at http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/ for the latest updates on the coronavirus.

Question 9: What can I do to help?
Answer 9: At this time, the best thing that adults can do is model calm behavior. Each child has her/his own response to these types of news reports, and adults can support by staying informed with the most updated and accurate information and sharing this calmly with youth. For additional information on psychological first aid (listen, protect, connect, model, and teach), please visit the Student Health and Human Services website at achieve.lausd.net/shhs.

Question 10: This FAQ has been helpful, but it’s a lot of information. What is the key takeaway?
Answer 10: Stay calm and remember to wash your hands frequently.

THE TRUTH ABOUT VAPING

- Vaping is not a substitute of any kind for smoking. In fact, vaping is just as addictive as smoking.
- According to a recent survey, 63% of 15-24 year olds who use Vapes either didn’t know that vapes contain nicotine, or they didn’t realize how much nicotine the vape actually contained.
- A single vape pod can contain as much nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes.
- Studies have shown that teens who vape are four times more likely to begin smoking cigarettes.
- Nicotine use during adolescence has been shown to impact brain development.
- On average, vape users spend between $1,000-$2,000 per year on feeding the addiction.
To talk to your teen(s) about vaping, here is a tip sheet for parents from the American Heart Association.

**OPIOIDS: IT’S A CRISIS**

- More than 130 million Americans die from an opioid overdose daily.
- Opioids include illegal drugs like heroin, as well as prescription painkillers such as hydrocodone (Vicodin), oxycodone (Oxycontin), fentanyl, morphine, and more.
- Fentanyl is almost 100x more powerful than morphine. Nearly 60% of overdose deaths involve fentanyl.
- Prescription opioids are the most commonly misused and abused drugs in our country.
- Taking prescription opioids recreationally can lead to addiction very quickly, and an addiction can quickly lead to overdose and death.

**THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC BY THE NUMBERS**

- **130+** People died every day from opioid-related drug overdoses1 (estimated).
- **10.3 m** People misused prescription opioids in 20181.
- **47,600** People died from overdosing on opioids1.
- **808,000** People used heroin in 20181.
- **81,000** People used heroin for the first time1.
- **2.0 million** People had an opioid use disorder in 20181.
- **2 million** People misused prescription opioids for the first time1.
- **15,349** Deaths attributed to overdosing on heroin (in 12-month period ending February 2019)1.
- **32,656** Deaths attributed to overdosing on synthetic opioids other than methadone (in 12-month period ending February 2019)1.

**SOURCES**

2. NCHS Data Brief No. 303, November 2019

**OPIOIDS: WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

- Common effects of opioid use can include but are not limited to:
  - Dry Mouth
  - Itching & Damaging of Skin
  - Insomnia
  - Nausea & Vomiting
  - Depression
  - Constipation & Stomach Pain

If you’re worried about your child’s safety, health, and well-being, do not wait to act.
TOBACCO: THE FACTS

- More than 3,000,000 high school students are still smoking tobacco products.
- Tobacco products contain nicotine, a highly addictive substance. And because nicotine addiction happens faster in young people, the occasional puff can turn into a full-blown habit!
- 90% of smokers started before the age of 18. In California, it is illegal for anyone under 21 to purchase tobacco products.
- Smoking reduces lung function & growth, so damage in young people results in lungs that will never reach full growth capacity.
- Smoking causes irreparable cardiovascular damage.
- Smokers are 2-4 times more likely to die from a stroke and 25 times more likely to die from cancer.

PTSA SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS NIGHT

On Wednesday, February 26, CHAMPS and the PTSA is proud to host a parent/guardian informational night about teen substance abuse.

This event is FREE and is part of the CHAMPS campaign to open up dialogue and seek solutions in the name of substance abuse. Substance abuse awareness professionals have been invited to speak, and the information gathered here serves as a valuable asset in the rapidly changing and challenging world of parenting.

This event will be held from 6-7:30 PM in the 5th floor commons of our Phoenix Building, and there is free parking in the structure on the 2nd floor.

Date & Time: Wednesday, 2/26 from 6:00-7:30 PM
Location: 5th Floor Commons, Phoenix Building
ELECTION UPDATE

We know it may be a challenge fitting in time to vote on Tuesday, March 3. So make things easier – sign up to vote-by-mail now and complete an application here. Your application must be received by February 25.

As a vote-by-mail voter, you will automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot for each election, so you can research the candidates AND vote in the comfort of your own home – no waiting in line at a polling place. Any registered voter can do it.

A reminder about the importance of the upcoming March 3 election. The LAUSD School Board Seat in District 3 is open, which covers much of the West San Fernando Valley. The board member elected will be making crucial decisions on our behalf – and on behalf of charters in our area - for the next four years. So please make a plan to vote next month.

Make sure you’re registered to vote! The deadline to register is Monday, February 17!