



Larry Simonsen
 Executive Administrator
 Bert Corona Charter HS

Board Report for April 25, 2022

Academics

The next month for academics is critical for test-based accountability for BCCHS. We have to complete the following assessments that all have significant accountability deadlines and implications for the school’s rechartering:

1. ELPAC - English proficiency exams for our 40 LTEL students.
2. NWEA MAPS - This periodic assessment qualifies as one of the forms of validated alternative assessment to the SBAC, and our 3rd assessment of the year is coming up.
3. SBAC - It’s baaaaack! Juniors are beginning their prep this week in their Junior Seminar classes. While it will not have bearing on our LAUSD visit for this year, it will definitely impact next year’s visit, which will mark the end of our 4th year since rechartering.

The links below give information for ELA and Math progress as measured by NWEA MAPS assessments for the 11th grade, which is the cohort that will be assessed with the SBAC this spring. Growth looks promising. The information has student names redacted for your consideration.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qqst_uZfOdi0P9P402dCV6EVI-4Wr0w/view?usp=sharing

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kdbYlytHerjC0WNyHKjbd0zN15TcVbOX/view?usp=sharing>

A very general summary for the 11th grade is here:

MAPS Test	SpEd On GL - %	ELL On GL - %	11th grade on GL
Fall Math - Sept	10%	0%	40%
Winter Math - Dec	10%	0%	43%
Fall Reading - Sept	0%	0%	50%
Winter Reading - Dec	0%	20%	57%

Our service-learning PBL projects are at a place that will require an honest inventory of current progress, an assessment of what we have learned, and possibly a significant shift in expectations. Successfully launching something new, such as a school-wide community service project, depends on several variables: knowledgeable and effective PBL leadership, community resources and facilitation of relationship building, meaningful purpose that invites and encourages student engagement, sufficient instructional time, and last but perhaps most important, a faculty-wide commitment to the success of the project. ***BCCHS does not yet have all of these variables in place, but we are closer than we were at this time last year.***

The teaching team will be engaging in a next-steps conversation this week, April 25.



College and Career Trips

In the last calendar month, students from BCCHS have visited Cal State University San Marcos, The University of California at San Diego, San Diego State University, The University of San Diego, The University of California at Riverside, California State University Los Angeles, Cal State University Channel Islands, and Cal State University Northridge.

These trips have been facilitated by our Counseling Department and Gear Up. Students have been genuinely curious and encouraged to see themselves in these spaces and places, and our seniors have earned admission to many of them. It's been a highlight of the spring semester to talk with students upon their return from these trips.

A new tradition we are hoping to establish this year is to have a public commitment celebration in which we acknowledge admissions offers for each senior, and present them with a sweatshirt of the university/college to which they commit to matriculate in the fall. Our matriculation rate is very, very small in comparison to our admissions rate, which is a complicated problem to tackle, but this is a small step.

Climate and Culture

Our team will be taking the first steps towards addressing a long-standing problem in our campus culture, one that has existed since the school's inaugural year. Many of our students are woefully uneducated and very public about their bias in the area of LGBTQ+ awareness and tolerance. Gender slurs are a regular part of our campus culture, and we are inviting an NGO partner to come to campus and work with our staff so that we can make a game plan for how to work with our students very intently over the 2022-2023 school year. Our advisory committee is heading this process.

Our staff and students are excited to be working on the Knights Ball, our version of PROM. Knights Ball is a very community friendly event, and all staff and board members are welcome to stop by. It will take place on the evening of June 4th, the day after the Senior Night at Disneyland.

Our seniors recently spent the day in Santa Monica to take their Senior Portraits.

9th, 10th, and 11th graders had their yearbook photos taken back on campus in our CTE media lab.

Both photography sessions were facilitated by trained BCCHS students and staff, using BCCHS grand-funded gear. This is the first year that all yearbook / I.D. card / S.I.S photography was executed completely by our trained students and staff using our equipment. That saved the school and the seniors thousands of dollars in company fees.





Staffing

A quick update on the staffing info provided in the previous report.

I have conducted close to 20 initial screening phone calls of new candidates, and have set up 13 follow-up interviews, 5 of which our team has completed. Finding people who are legitimately excited about this work, in the context we are working, is rare, but we are on a hiring safari for the rare: people who want to do the hard work of believing in kids in the midst of tremendous adversity, rather than people who are looking for kids who have their issues all figured out and their goals all set. The interview process feels a bit like trying to simultaneously charm and scare people, and those who feel resonance are the people we'll hire. The table below is included once again for your reference in case you are connected to like-minded people you believe could fill any of our vacancies.

Name	Position Vacating	Rationale	Listing Position
Susan Castrellon	Coordinator of Operations	Leaving to become LSC Staff	No; internal fill
Isis Guzman	Program Coordinator	Becoming Coordinator of Operations	No; internal fill
Diana Galeana	BII, Special Education	Becoming Program Coordinator	Yes
Saul Razo	BII, Special Education	Leaving; Moving Cities	Yes
Nestor Garcia	Math Teacher	Becoming Coordinator of Instruction	Yes
Maria Castañeda	Special Education Teacher	Leaving; Moving Cities	Yes
Kristina Pentz	Special Education Teacher	Leaving; Considering Career Change	Yes
Annika Stenfjord	English Teacher	Leaving; Has mentioned working at a traditional high school	Yes
Liz Gonzalez	College/Career Teacher	Becoming Climate and Culture Manager	No; previous position is closing permanently
Dr. Catalino Marambio	Chemistry/Physic Teacher	Leaving; having another child and staying home next year.	Yes
NA	ESL Instructor (current opening for 2022-2023)	NA	Yes