

Bert Corona Charter High School
Executive Administrator Report – Mr. Simonsen
February 25, 2018

Mission

The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post--secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become life-long learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.

Enrollment

The current enrollment of Bert Corona High School is 207 as of Friday, October 27th-

9th Grade – 57
10th Grade – 88
11th Grade – 51
12th Grade – 12
Total - 208

This number is 27 under projection for the approved FY 2017-2018 budget.

Staffing

Our new English teacher, Ms. Susana Rodriguez, started work during the second week of January. She is from Southern California, is Latina, is bilingual, and is adept at instruction in both English and Spanish. She is able to manage a classroom in a highly professional, encouraging, and rigorous manner with pre-college expectations. Finding someone of her caliber mid-year, someone with both the academic and cultural competence to inspire and grow EL and LTEL students who are facing many challenges outside of the classroom, is a huge gift to BCCHS families. The students have embraced her not because they are immediately in love with her, but because they finally feel that they have a highly skilled and highly professional teacher working with and for them.

Student Academic Performance/Growth

BCCHS 9th, 10th, and 12th graders will be taking the NWEA Maps test in March, just before spring break. BCCHS 11th graders have been taking the state's interim assessments to prepare for the SBAC exams. The good news is that our scores for this year's cohort will be significantly better than last year's mini-cohort, if the interim assessments are predictive in any way. The bad news is that we are not yet commensurate with the highest performing LAUSD public schools, but we are not far off. (See attached performance docs). This SBAC test is the primary focus of this spring's testing efforts. YPI is graciously handling the PSAT-9 and the PSAT-10. Those take place on separate dates and times. The seniors recently took their placement exams at LA Mission College, to mixed results. Some students placed college-ready, others were far off. It's a very mixed little bag, this senior class (12 students, 10 on pace to graduate). They were a surprise, and have been our biggest academic challenge as a group. There is so much disparity in their skill levels and their performances, but we are committed to get them across the finish line. They will graduate at the Pacoima City Hall Building during the first week of June.

We have a number of students taking credit recovery courses through Acellus, an online credit recovery program utilized by a number of local high schools, and presented to us by our guidance counselor, Ms. Palafox. We are realizing that it is going to take several iterations of online learning to build it permanently and successfully into our culture, but we are committed to it as we recognize that the future of education will depend more and more on this delivery method, and we want our students prepared.

Over 30 students are taking the 5th concurrent enrollment college course offered at BCCHS. It is a psychology course entitled "General Psychology 1" taught by a fun and engaging professor, Craig Smardan. The students feel that the class is engaging, informative, and fun. We feel very fortunate to continue to be able to offer this opportunity to our kids.

College Visitations, Applications, and Acceptances

To date, our 10 seniors (some portion thereof) have been accepted to:

Grand Canyon University	Phoenix, AZ
CSU Los Angeles	Los Angeles, CA
CSU Channel Islands	Camarillo, CA
Oklahoma State University-OIT	Okmulgee, OK

We are waiting on several other colleges and universities to respond. Hopefully more good news is on the way.

Professional Development

BCCHS Professional Development focus is currently on LTEL Support and Reflective Practice. After the LAUSD Oversight Visit in January, the team is taking the instructional advice of the committee and putting it immediately into active use. We are implementing specific SDAIE strategies and recording the results, and we are video-recording instruction in every classroom for observation and feedback. The only other professional development thread has been the scoring and processing of the SBAC Interim Assessments for our Junior class, as they will represent our school to the state and the district through this spring's exams.

CIF Sports

The sports program launched girls and boys soccer and boys basketball this winter. The teams have played several games against high schools from many parts of Los Angeles, as we are new to CIF and must schedule games with anyone who will accept an invitation. Just this past Friday, the boys had their first basketball game and were pretty soundly thumped, but they were proud to wear the uniform. The boys soccer team had their third match, and were finally in their best form. They defeated Los Angeles Leadership Academy 2-0 in a hard-fought match. It was a great moment for our school, as soccer is of particular athletic and cultural value to our school community. Our A.D., James Carroll, was especially moved by the end to a long string of BCCHS losses in multiple sports. We haven't had a victory since girls volleyball in November. The boys were so proud to represent their school, and win!

Speech and Debate

Jacqueline Aristondo placed 4th in Impromptu Speaking recently at the Cal Lutheran Invitational. It's the highest performance of a BCCHS Student since the Knights formed their inaugural Speech and Debate team this year. We are very proud of Mr. Yabut and his entire team for taking on this daunting style of competition. BCCHS students are being validated for their efforts in very public arenas, and that is a critical component to successfully growing a high school with traction and staying power. I am so grateful to the many individuals who have helped support this small but mighty band of academic Knights as they go to battle to represent their school and community!!

Culture and Climate

Advisory is being utilized to cover the following themes, which is an update to the original vision of Advisory:

- Monday – Life Skills: What do I need to know to be a successful, independent adult when I leave HS?
- Tuesday – Academics: How do I know I am successfully mastering my learning outcomes, to independence?
- Wednesday – Volunteer: How am I making my school and my community a better place?
- Thursday – Deep Dive: How am I learning to respond to people who have perspectives and feelings that are different than mine?
- Friday- College/Career: What have I done in the past week to make myself ready for applying to college?

School Safety

This month, two BCCHS students were arrested and booked for criminal threats during the weekend after the school shooting in Florida. The details of both police actions are attached in separate documents, as is the plan for reintegrating both students back into the school community. While the reality of arrest is both traumatic and damaging to the students involved, the specifics of the behavior that triggered the arrests could not be ignored as student safety is paramount. Please see attached documents for further detail.