

**Mt. Washington Elementary School**  
**Middle School Discussion**

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

6:30-7:30 p.m., MPR

Hosts: Pilar Buelna and David L. Moguel

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Purpose: to discuss middle school options for the LAUSD Choices application due November 16 that are reasonably close to us in terms of distance

- a. Arroyo Seco Museum Science
- b. Burbank MS Math/Science/Technology and Police Academy
- c. Eagle Rock MS Gifted/Highly Gifted/High Ability
- d. Starr King MS Environmental Studies, Gifted/Technology/Arts, Film and Media Magnet
- e. Mt. Gleason MS Gifted/High Ability
- f. Washington Irving Advanced Math, Music and Engineering

2. We will not be discuss ALL options available to us:

- a. LAUSD schools that are farther away, such as LACES, SOCES, Portola or 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, etc.
- b. LAUSD schools that are not part of CHOICES, such as Walter Reed or Nightingale MS
- b. Charter schools
- c. Private schools
- d. Other districts, such as Glendale and South Pasadena

However, we may host a Spring discussion on other options if you are interested

3. **CHOICES application**

We can apply for up to 3 magnet schools, but there was confusion at our meeting on whether it is best to select 1, 2 or 3 schools

Upon further investigation:

- a. The official explanation is in the CHOICES brochure, p. 16, Item #3
- b. An LAUSD “Central” Choices office person stated, over the phone, that another good source of information is consult the Magnet Coordinators of your schools of choice
- c. Apparently, there is an advantage to putting down only one choice. If you do not get into your 1<sup>st</sup> choice, but do gain admission to your 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> choice, then your 1<sup>st</sup> choice is no longer an option, and you will no longer be on the waiting list of your 1<sup>st</sup> choice, and you will lose your waiting list points.
- d. On p. 19 of the CHOICES brochure, information on a number of other LAUSD programs

is made available: applications for Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS), Open Enrollment, Charter Schools, and Local Zones of Choice.

#### 4. TABLE OF SCHOOLS

We spent a few minutes talking about each of the schools on the table in the next few pages.

a) Almost all of the statistical information can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/>

Click on “School Level API Reports”

b. Then, as Mt. Washington Elementary and Eagle Rock HS school parent, and LAUSD literacy coach Mylene Keipp pointed out in another email, there is a wealth of resources for each school.

Go to LAUSD's website ([www.lausd.net](http://www.lausd.net)) and click in Find a School. Choose the school & hit the Retrieve button.

Once you are at the school's informational page, find the Performance Indicators. The attachment shows where to find it. There are 8 different data points. The Data Summary Sheet offers multiple points for conversation. The School Report Card is based on surveys by teachers, parents, and students.

c) In the table below, the abbreviations mean as follows.

FRPL – Eligible participants in free or reduced-price lunch

GATE – Gifted and Talented Education Program

EL/RFEP – English Learners, Reclassified Fluent-English-Proficient Students

#### 5. 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE aT MT. WASHINGTON

Parents in attendance compared notes

#### 6. LOOKING AHEAD

- charter school applications available in January
- Walter Reed MS application due February
- interdistrict transfers in May



	API Statewide / Similar Schools Ranks  2012 Growth API Score	% Hispanic or Latino	% White/ % Black or Afri-Amer	% Asian/ % Filipino	% FRPL	% GATE	% EL/ RFEP	2010-11 Enrollme nt and grade span/ Suspensi on Rate (No. of incidents/ total enrollme nt/ No. of Expulsio ns	Comment s
MT. WASHIN GTON ELEM	9/5  907, down 1	45	33/7	9/4	25	16	4/2	314 in K-6/ 0%/ 0	
ARROYO SECO (Museum Science)  Grades: K-8 Program Capacity: 568 Applicati ons 2012-201 3: 407 Openings 2013-201 4: 81  Tour Informati on: Wednesda y, November 7th @ 3:00 PM  A minimum of 12 points would be necessary to get in for the middle grade - even families with 19 points are on a waiting	8/10  873, down 8	87	8/0	1/3	82	21	17/30	563 in K-8/ 1.2%/ 0	<div>5 classroom s for MS, school is not departmen talized, so electives are few. No foreign language electives, or computer skills (typing), are offered.</div> <div>Lack of physical education facilities.</div> <div>Principal explains that because of limited staff and facilities, very strong students do very well, but struggling students really struggle.</div> <div>Principal</div>

list.  A student's GATE designation does not give any advantage because the school is not a Gifted magnet.  Magnet coordinator Ms. Casagrán recommends parents select only one (1) choice on application, because she uses a waiting list. Putting down additional choices risks taking your name off of her waiting list, and being put at the bottom of your 2 <sup>nd</sup> -choice school's waiting list, thus decreasing your chances of getting in to both schools. If you put down a similar 3 <sup>rd</sup> choice, you may not get in anywhere!									points out that if your student has a personality conflict with a teacher, you have a problem because each child is with a teacher for 2 years.
BURBANK MS (M/S/T)	2/2	91	1/2	2/4	86	15	17/37	893 in 7-8/	Mylene Keipp reports intense

<b>Grades:</b> 6-8 <b>Program Capacity:</b> 255 <b>Applications 2012-2013:</b> 133 <b>Openings 2013-2014:</b> 118  In 2011, Alisos Middle, Norwalk-La Mirada USD, was ranked 6/10 with a 785 API	794, up 100  In 2011, Aspire Centennial College Preparatory Academy, an LAUSD charter school, was ranked 6/10 with a 789 API							4.5%/2	focus on quality of instruction  A couple of parents who are teachers reported the staff was entirely reconstituted last year – all teachers had to reapply for their jobs
EAGLE ROCK HS (Gifted/Highly Gifted/High Ability)  <b>Grades:</b> 7-12 <b>Program Capacity:</b> 521 <b>Applications 2012-2013:</b> 279 <b>Openings 2013-2014:</b> 174 <b>Tour Information:</b> Open House, Wednesday, November 14, 8-9:30 a.m.  Most students in “Magnet Honors” classes, there are only ~10 Highly Gifted students among	HS 5/3  773, up 27  Elem 7/4  875, up 24  Note: API scores are generally higher at schools with younger students. It is common for elems to have API scores of 900+, but rare among HS, and MS are in between. At Eagle Rock, 75% of school is	60	9/2	6/23	67	30	8/24	3,069 in 7-12/ 12.4% / 1  960 in K-6/ 0.4%/0	Eagle Rock students in grades 7-10 take part in International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP), comparable to AP Program in terms of college credit. Visit “ibo.org” for information regarding mission, curriculum, and university perspectives.  7 <sup>th</sup> graders are offered Spanish 1, Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1, French 1, or German

500+.	HS									1; Visual or Performance Art; Technology (typing); and PE includes 1 semester of swimming
All academic classes in the program have three labels: GATE/Honors/Magnet.	For comparison:  The LAUSD high schools with the highest API scores are El Camino Real HS (875, 10/5) Granada Hills Charter (877, 10/7), Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies (895, 10/7), and Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies (879, 10/7)									Magnet school has a target of 40% white, but currently has ~15%, and the Latino percentage is less than that of the regular school.
Application process: detailed information found in the "G/HA/HG Magnet Criteria" tab of the echoices.lausd.net website.										Self-contained MS may bully and misbehave more, whereas MS and HS combined have a calming and maturing effect on each other.
The Eagle Rock program is limited to students who have been officially identified by LAUSD as highly gifted or gifted; or who have been verified as having high ability on standardized tests; or who have shown certain critical thinking and problem solving skills (elementary school principal and child's current										HS principal says higher suspension rate is a reflection of how well discipline is enforced.

<p>teacher make that determination).</p> <p>Applications are considered by the LAUSD; the Eagle Rock MS/HS staff cannot influence the selection process.</p> <p>There is a “regular school,” but unless you are within attendance boundary, if you are rejected, your student does not attend Eagle Rock. However, it may be that during an Open Enrollment process late in the academic year, there would be room.</p> <p>Mylene Keipp reports 7<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment growth.</p>									
<p>STARR KING MS</p> <p><b>Grades:</b> 6-8</p> <p>(Environmental Studies) <b>Program</b></p>	<p>5/8</p> <p>805, up 28</p>	63	14/2	11/9	100	30	15/38	<p>1,505 in 6-8/6.8%/0</p>	<p>Environmental Studies Magnet: project-based curriculum, environmental</p>



<p><b>Capacity:</b> 455</p> <p><b>Applications</b> <b>2012-2013:</b> 248</p> <p><b>Openings</b> <b>2013-2014:</b> 187</p> <p>4 teachers in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, then for 7<sup>th</sup> have to add about 50 students, so there are possibilities. The goal is 30% White.</p> <p>Students' CST scores are not considered for admission.</p> <p>(Gifted/Technology/Arts)</p> <p><b>Program Capacity:</b> 486</p> <p><b>Applications</b> <b>2012-2013:</b> 264</p> <p><b>Openings</b> <b>2013-2014:</b> 166</p> <p>6 teachers in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, then 5 in 7<sup>th</sup>, so little to no chance to get in for 7<sup>th</sup> grade, even if the student is GATE.</p> <p>GATE scores considered for</p>									<p>literacy</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade electives include: digital imaging &amp; animation, music, art, computers, foreign language</p> <p>G/T/A Magnet: technology and the arts, project-based learning</p> <p>Bus pick-up @ Arroyo Seco Museum Magnet @ 6:55 a.m., Nightingale MS @ 7:05 a.m. Arrival ~7:30 a.m.</p>
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admission .  (Film and Media Magnet) <b>Program Capacity:</b> 694 <b>Applications</b> <b>2012-2013:</b> 0 <b>Openings</b> <b>2013-2014:</b> 85  New program to start in Fall 2013, will essentially be for the home school students so that everyone at the school is in a magnet.  <b>Tour Information:</b> Thursday, 11/8/12 Thursday, 11/15/12 8:15 - 10:00am									
MOUNT GLEASON MS (Gifted/High Ability) Sunland, CA  <b>Grades:</b> 6-8 <b>Program Capacity:</b> 273 <b>Applications</b> <b>2012-2013:</b> 122 <b>Openings</b> <b>2013-2014:</b> 98	5/5  777, up 2	53	34/4	3/4	69	18	12/23	1,187 in 6-8/ 3.7%/0	Bus pick-up @ Arroyo Seco magnet and Nightingale MS
WASHINGTON	2/5	88	1/1	4/6	84	11	21/36	846 in	

IRVING (Advanced Math, Music and Engineeri ng MS Magnet)  <b>Grades:</b> 6-8 <b>Phone:</b> (323) 259-3700 <b>Program</b> <b>Capacity:</b> 642 <b>Applications</b> <b>2012-201</b> <b>3: 0</b> <b>Openings</b> <b>2013-201</b> <b>4: 85</b>	684, down 19							6-8/ 14.3% / 1	
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