Schools for Advanced Studies
Site Application and Selection Process

The Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) designation, initiated in the 1998-1999 school year, was created to recognize District resident schools for exemplary Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) implementation. The SAS designation strengthens K-12 support for students identified as gifted and highly gifted, as well as students who demonstrate superior academic achievement. The SAS designation exemplifies the District’s commitment to ensure equitable access, excellence and accountability to high quality GATE programs districtwide.

To ensure program quality, District policy requires schools to reapply for the SAS designation on a five-year cycle. 2019-2020 is the application year for all District schools. All interested schools, including current SAS sites, are invited to submit an application to Gifted/Talented Programs, Advanced Learning Options, for the next five-year SAS designation cycle which begins in the 2021-2022 academic year. Affiliated charter schools are eligible to apply for SAS site designation; however, independent charter schools, Magnet programs and Dual Language Education programs are not eligible to apply for the SAS designation. Gifted/Talented Programs carefully reviews each application and will notify schools with the results of their application before the end of the 2019/2020 school year.

Some questions parents might have are: 1) Can my child’s current school become an SAS site? 2) Is my child’s SAS site applying to renew its designation? 3) How are schools selected? The first step to getting answers to these questions is to speak to the GATE coordinator and principal at your child’s school.

Family Day Out
Free ideas for family time

Take the whole family to Dockweiler Youth Center’s Beach Winter Wonderland on December 21, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. This event includes bounce houses, live music, face painting, winter activities and REAL SNOW at the beach! http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/dbh/docs/1064020_2019BeachWinterWonderland.pdf

Experience and honor the dynamic, rich cultures of our city at the 60th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration on December 24, 2019, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. This annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration provides Angelenos of all ages an opportunity to enjoy many diverse L.A.-based artists and community groups showcasing their talent, artistry and traditions. https://www.musiccenter.org/tickets/events-by-the-music-center/holidaycelebration/

Join other Angelenos in Grand Park for the New Year’s Eve, Los Angeles Countdown to 2020! This family-friendly event starts at 8:00 p.m. and includes, music, food, art and more. https://nyela.grandparkla.org/#fun-stuff-to-hear-see-and-do
Spring 2020 GATE/SAS Parent Workshops

All parents/guardians are invited to join us at our annual Spring GATE/SAS Parent Workshops, which are held in each of the six Local Districts. The workshops, which start at 5:15 p.m., begin with an overview of the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test, Eighth Edition (OLSAT-8) administered to all District second grade students in March. Following the OLSAT-8 session, from 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., there is a screening of the documentary Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER: Uncovering Skills for Stress Resilience. Filmmaker and physician Dr. Delaney Ruston identifies the challenges in our current screen-filled society, and how we as parents and schools can empower teens to overcome mental health challenges and build emotional agility, communication savvy and stress resilience.

Workshop Dates and Locations (Select one date; no pre-registration required)

Local District Northeast: February 3, 2020 at Grant High School
Local District Northwest: February 6, 2020 at Nobel Middle School
Local District South: February 10, 2020 at White Middle School
Local District East: February 13, 2020 at Stevenson Middle School
Local District West: February 20, 2020 at Loyola Village Elementary School
Local District Central: February 24, 2020 at Sotomayor High School

School Spotlight

Robert E. Peary Middle School Gifted Magnet and Schools for Advanced Studies Site
(Local District South)

This year students from Robert E. Peary Middle School’s Gifted Magnet and School for Advanced Studies are teaming up to participate in the 2019-2020 MATHCOUNTS Math Video Challenge. Originally established in 1983 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and CNA Insurance, MATHCOUNTS aims to build confidence and improve attitudes about math and problem solving. Peary’s students work in teams of four to choose and solve a Math Video problem. Students may choose from 250 problems that are all aligned to the Common Core State Standards. After solving the problem, the students create and submit a video that demonstrates the math problem in a real-world setting or situation. The videos will be reviewed by a panel of expert judges in March 2020 based on mathematical content, communication, creativity, real-world scenario and adherence to the MATHCOUNTS Video submission rules. Up to one hundred quarterfinalist videos will be announced on Pi-Day, March 14, 2020. From there the judges will narrow the field down to twelve semifinalists and eventually to the four best videos. The four finalists will compete in the MATHCOUNTS National Competition in May 2020. We send best wishes to the teams at Peary Middle School!

(If your school has something to share for the “School Spotlight” section, please email Susanna Furfari, District Coordinator, at susanna.furfari@lausd.net.)