



Positive School Transformation: *The Poly Story*



4x4 Block Schedule
Small School Learning Communities
A Focus on High Quality Teaching and Learning

October 15, 2004 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Northeast San Fernando Valley High School Partnership

Los Angeles Unified School District-District 2

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

Janis Fries-Martinez, Principal

East Valley High School #2

Linda Calvo, Principal

Agenda



Welcome

Janis Fries-Martinez, Principal

*Vision from 12 Years Past and Today
Opening a New High School*

Linda Calvo, Principal (EVHS)

The Twelve Realities of Change

Janis Fries-Martinez, Principal

Master Schedule

**Gary Grey, Assistant Principal
(EVHS)**

The Importance of School Visitations

Larry Hall, Lead Teacher

Professional Development & Collaboration

Edward Trimis, Assistant Principal

Agenda



The Role of Parents

**Gerardo Loera, Title One
Coordinator**

Students and Choice

Lisa Donley-Jay, Coordinator

The Role of the Lead Teacher

Larry Hall, Lead Teacher

New Teacher Perspective

Cesar Felix

Securing A Partner

Pat Flenner, Assistant Principal

Agenda



Opening a New High School

Linda Calvo, Principal (EVHS)

Summing up and Reflecting

Janis Fries-Martinez, Principal

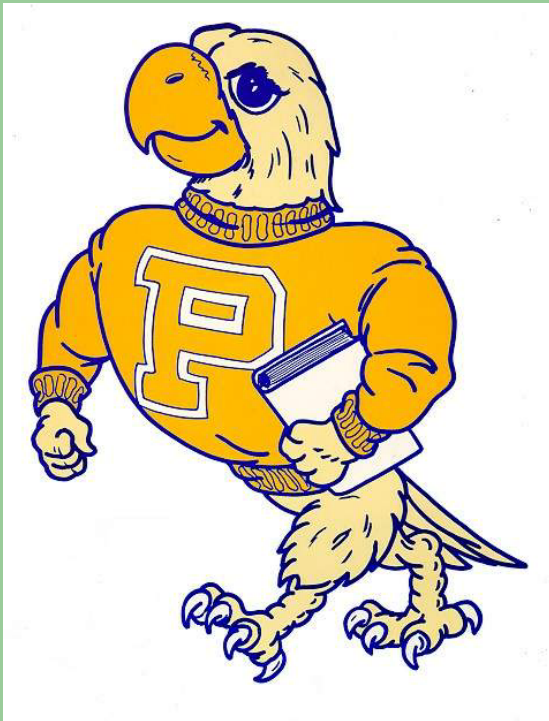


Welcome



Jan Fries-Martinez
Principal







- Small School Attributes



- We can decide that a change is needed. But what are the Realities of Change?
- Changes mean different things to different people.



- Key points to facilitate substantive, sustained change:
 - Do not be married to anything
 - Build trust
 - Develop strategies to build resilience and fight resistance



- Vision and Leadership:
 - **Ensure** the academic achievement of all students at high levels
 - **Establish** supportive rapport and positive relationships
 - **Empower** students and staff to focus on instruction and youth development
 - **Engage** families and communities in supporting and sustaining dynamic learning



- A few realities about people:
 - Most people act first in their own self-interest, not in the interest of the school
 - Most people expect to be viewed as having good intentions, even though they view with suspicion the intentions of those initiating organizational change

School Visitations and Collaboration



Larry Hall
Lead Teacher

Professional Development



Ed Trimis
Assistant Principal



Professional Development



- Instructional Cabinet
Prof. Development
- 4X4 Block Schedule
- SSLCs

Project Support



- Support for Change is continually sought.
 - Grants and support from national, state, and local sources are continually sought.
 - www.cde.ca.gov
 - www.ed.gov
 - <http://fdcenter.org>
 - Start a non-profit/foundation

Specialized Secondary Programs Grant Program
California State Department of Education

Application for an
Planning Grant

The Sports Programs Opportunities and Recreation Training Academy

SPORT



California Partnership Academy Grant Program
California State Department of Education

**Application for an
Implementation Grant**

*The Technology, Education, and Computer
Headstart Academy*

TECH



School Visitations and Collaboration



Larry Hall
Lead Teacher

School Visitations and Collaboration



- Visits to school models.

Block Schedule



Gary Gray
Assistant Principal
East Valley New HS #2



Parents



Gerardo Loera
Title One Coordinator

Parents



- Increased communication, quality and quantity
- Additional meetings
- Parent focus groups
- Parent Center is key. Gaining understanding alleviated concerns
- Accessible principal/administration

Student Input



Lisa Donley-Jay
Counselor



Student Input



- Input from students is critical
 - Questions, concerns
 - Survey administered
 - Contact/discourse with adult staff before, during, and after decisions were made



STUDENT SURVEY

2003-2004

Poly is excited about the upcoming school year. We are creating “Small Learning Communities” and would like to know what kinds of career areas you would like to study.

Please tell us how much you are interested in each career area. On the answer sheet mark (in pencil) your preference for each choice (pathway).

a – *no interest* b – *little interest* c – *some interest* d – *interested*
e – *very interested*

The Role of the Lead Teacher and the Vote



Larry Hall
Lead Teacher



The Role of the Lead Teacher and the Vote



- All stakeholders involved
- Communication critical
- 85% Vote to approve schedule

Collaboration with Partners and Staff

- Staff
 - Data
 - Instructional Cabinet

Collaboration and Securing a Partner



Pat Flenner
Assistant Principal

Collaboration and Securing a Partner



Research states that when staff are given regular, sustained, on-site support increased student achievement occurs.

Collaboration and Securing a Partner



Schools will see improvement when facilitators, coaches, experts, provide regular and sustained, on-site support to the staff.

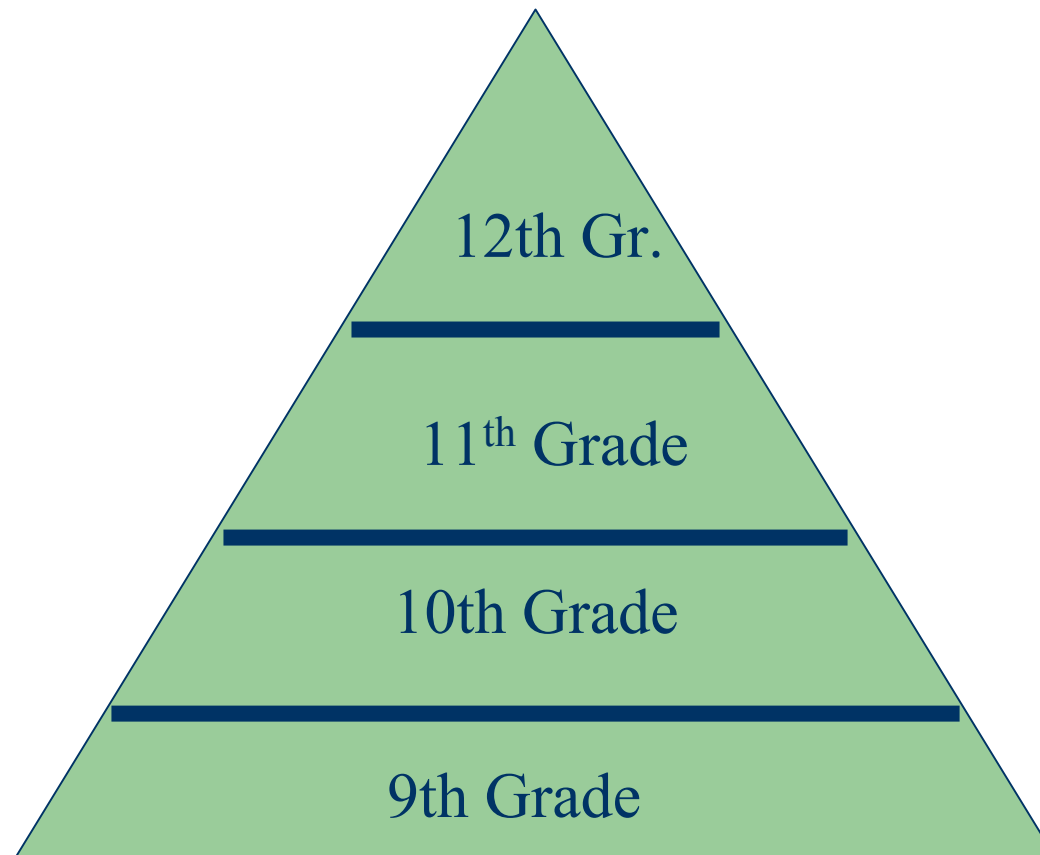
Collaboration and Securing a Partner



- Collaboration
- Change is critical



Focus on high needs



Collaboration with Partners and Staff

- 85% of students who complete 9th grade the first time, will have an 85% chance of graduating on time.

Collaboration and Securing a Partner



- Talent Development High Schools and Johns Hopkins University
- Jim Cox, Data Analysis
- Barbara Knight and the UCLA school Management Program, Leadership in the Department and SSLCs
- Valerie Sampson, Curriculum and Instruction
- Robert Land and the Central Los Angeles Writing Project at California State University, Los Angeles
- Intervention: Beyond the Bell and KYDS

New Teacher Perspective



Cesar Felix
Teacher, Freshmen Centre

New Teacher Perspective



- 4X4 Schedule and the Freshmen Centre/SLCs
- About time in the classroom. The reality.
 - 60 min. vs. 97 min. More time for instruction.
 - Guaranteed coverage of material?
 - Accomplish MORE is LESS time! We have a complete class every day!
 - Time to plan. More time in class. Get to know students. Better teacher-student ratio.
 - Personalization. Academic Rigor. Quality teaching.
 - Bottom line.....My kids are doing better!



Importance of Collaboration

Linda Calvo
Principal (EVHS)

Summing Up and Reflecting



Jan Fries-Martinez
Principal



Closing



- One person can make a difference.
- A group of people can change the world.

Thank You!



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