

BLAIR SCHOOL

School Leadership

Principal: David Ibarra

Asst. Principal: Maricela Brambila

IB Diploma Coordinator: Karen Law

Counselors: Karen Favor, Olga Torres, and Carole Caputo

Community Assistant: Norma Sanchez

Facts About Our School

Grades Served: 6-12

Number of Students: 1,000

School Hours: 7:30am– 4:00pm

Awards

US News and World Report Silver Medal Best High Schools Rankings – 2015

Rotary Teacher of Excellence – Russell Wong – 2015

LULAC Administrator of the Year – Maricela Brambila - 2015

Health Careers Academy certified as National Academy Foundation School – 2014

Recognized as one of the top High Schools in the San Gabriel Valley and throughout Los Angeles County, LA Magazine—September issue - 2014

Rotary Teacher of Excellence – Christine McLaughlin – 2013

Rotary Teacher of Excellence – Kelly Oxley Garris - 2011

California Distinguished School - 2011

What Makes Our School Unique?

Blair High and Middle School is the only secondary school in Pasadena Unified School District authorized to deliver the International Baccalaureate curriculum.

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (Grades 6 – 10)

The IB MYP provides a framework for academic challenge and life skills for students ages 11-16 years and this five-year program offers an educational approach that embraces yet transcends traditional school subjects.

Personal and class-wide projects are required, along with community service. Students develop the qualities of an IB learner: to be reflective, caring, knowledgeable, open-minded, balanced and principled, and to be a risk taker, inquirer, communicator and thinker.

Although the MYP curriculum is challenging, it is meant for ALL students. Every student in grades 6-10 participates. Our educators realize there are a variety of learners and it is our goal to teach to each type of learner. The MYP focuses on implementing the best practices of teaching and this will help us include all students. Another focus of the MYP is helping students determine how they learn so they can develop study methods most effective for them.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (Grades 11 – 12)

A rigorous integrated two-year curriculum, the prestigious IB Diploma prepares students with thinking skills, a global perspective, college writing and research experience, and more.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is recognized around the world for its challenging curriculum and is welcomed by top universities.

Students learn more than a collection of facts. The Diploma Programme prepares students for university and encourages them to:

- ask challenging questions
- learn how to learn
- develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture
- develop the ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures.

What is in the curriculum?

Students study six subjects selected from the subject groups. Normally three subjects are studied at higher level (courses representing 240 teaching hours), and the remaining three subjects are studied at standard level (courses representing 150 teaching hours).

All three elements of the core—extended essay, theory of knowledge and creativity, action, service—are compulsory and are central to the philosophy of the Diploma Programme.

BLAIR SCHOOL

Sports Options

Baseball
Girls Tennis
Basketball (Boys and Girls)
Soccer (Boys and Girls)
Cross Country
Softball
Students Run Los Angeles (SRLA)
Swimming (Boys and Girls)
Volleyball (Girls)
Football
Track (Boys and Girls)

Parent Options

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)
Middle School Advisory
Health Careers Academy Advisory Board
Culinary and Hospitality Academy Advisory Board
Dual Language Immersion Parent Advisory Committee
Athletic Support Team
Band Boosters
Music Boosters

Community Leadership

School Board Representative:
Patrick Cahalan

City Council Representative:
Gene Masuda

What Does Our School Offer?

The staff at Blair High School believes that all students have the potential to learn the core of knowledge that ultimately leads to a productive, independent lifestyle.

We are committed to providing ALL students, within a safe, clean, secure environment, equal access to the core curriculum which is an integration of academic and vocational disciplines.

We are committed to developing effective programs to enhance EVERY student's talents and abilities, including programs for students with special needs.

We are committed to providing programs to ALL students that promote multicultural, civic and environmental awareness.

We are committed to providing avenues for parent and community involvement.

Our academic programs are designed to meet the needs of the diverse student population we serve. One of our three academic counselors will meet with each family in order to design the most appropriate course of study.

Community and Business Partners

- Huntington Hospital
- Kaiser Permanente
- California Institute of Technology
- Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
- Con Cariño
- Pasadena City College
- Pasadena Lions Club
- Pasadena After Hours Rotary
- Le Cordon Bleu
- Lake Avenue Church
- Lake Avenue Community Foundation
- Arts College of Design
- Pasadena Showcase House

Attendance Area and Open Enrollment

Blair School is a school of residence with an attendance area of families who have the privilege of enrolling based on their home address. Visit www.pusd.us to see if your family resides in the attendance area.

Families not residing in the school's area may apply to go to that school through the District's annual Open Enrollment process. Please check openenrollment.info for more information, including how to apply online.

BLAIR SCHOOL

Before and After School Options

LEARNs

The BlairLEARNs after school program complements the regular school day by offering enriching, quality courses and activities. Our objective is to provide a safe environment that encourages, challenges and assists the students in utilizing after school hours to learn a new skill, improve academic performance, increase physical fitness or engage in positive social interactions amongst peers. A main staple of BlairLEARNs is we use Blair teachers to teach and facilitate many of the programs.

Army JROTC

The vision of the JROTC is to provide a quality citizenship, character, and leadership development program, while fostering partnerships with communities and educational institutions.

Benchmark Café

Benchmark Café is a tutoring and homework lab. It is open to students after school Monday through Thursday. Certificated teachers are there to assist students in all subjects. Benchmark Café is held in the library.

Club Options

We have many clubs based on student interests. In order to have a club, a minimum of three students must be interested and secure a club advisor from the staff. Club offerings change from year to year. This is a list from 2014-15:

Adventure Club, Art Club, Big Men/Women on Campus, Black Student Union, Blair Literature Movement (Blair Book Club), FHA-Hero, Gay-Straight Alliance, Good News Club, HO-SA – Health Occupations Students of America, IB Club, Interact Club, Italian Heritage Club, Junior Honor Society, Latin American Student Association, Latin Student Union, Leadership Experiences Opportunities and Service (LEOS), Middle School Creativity, National Honor Society, Pacific Asian Club, Precious PAWS, Student Newspaper, The Viking Pinterest Club, VIP Scholars, Youth Business Leaders

Pathways Options

Health Careers Academy (Grades 9-12)

Puente Program (Accepting Students in Grades 9 and 10)

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (Grades 11 and 12 Only)

International Academy (Grades 6 – 12)

Foreign Language Options

All students in grades 6-10 must take Spanish as part of the IBMYP. IB Spanish SL and HL are offered to IBDP students. AP Spanish Language and AP Spanish Literature are also offered.

Students enrolled in the Dual Language Immersion Program (presently grades 6 and 7) are taught a minimum of 2 courses in Spanish and the other courses in English.

Noted Alumni

Kermit Johnson and **James McAlistar** - The "Blair Pair" helped the Vikings to the 1969 Southern Section 4A CIF Championship and then went on to earn All-American honors at UCLA in the 1970s. McAlistar also played for the Philadelphia Eagles

Charles Phillips played for USC and the Oakland Raiders.

Sean Smith plays for the Kansas City Chiefs, previously played for the Miami Dolphins

Louise Saffman, engineer, inventor, created the VCR+

Rick Cole, former mayor of Pasadena, 1992-94

Sean Boyd, Network Architect for UNICEF

Whitney Otto, novelist

Gigi Hanna, Pulitzer nominated journalist, currently elected City Clerk of the City of San Bernardino

Larry Wilson, former Editor: Pasadena Star-News, San Gabriel Valley Tribune and Whittier Daily News

Matthew Tramel, West Point graduate/US Army officer, winner of the Bronze Star "awarded for meritorious service in combat as a Platoon Leader in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan from March 2011 to March 2012"