



ST. HOPE

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FINAL EDITION

PS7 Makes History with Middle School Opening in Oak Park

By Jim Schieble

On August 22nd, 80 students and their families put their trust in five teachers, and the St. HOPE organization, as PS7 opened the first middle school in the Oak Park neighborhood in over half a century. With two seventh grade and two eighth grade classes, the PS7 middle school has experienced great success in the first half of the school year. Staff and students have quickly become accustomed to PS7's high expectations and relentless focus on student success and academic achievement. This is displayed in the extending of our school day to 5:00 pm to include an hour of study hall daily. In addition to the great success our students have enjoyed in their first year at the middle school, our new home on the Sac High campus has opened up many experiences to PS7 students. All students have enjoyed the use of the West Wing science labs and experiencing PE on Sac High's athletic facilities. In addition, PS7 students are participating in the Sac High marching band, they intern with the 34th Street Dance Company, train with the weightlifting team, and our art elective has partnered with the Sacramento Philharmonic this trimester to create pieces of art to be displayed at the Philharmonic's upcoming concert in January. It is clear that the hard work and dedication of the staff at the PS7 Middle School is demonstrated by the growth and performance of the students.



PS7 middle school students enjoy time together at Sac High.

St. HOPE Recognizes Major Supporters During Partner's Luncheon

By Shani Alford



Sac High students mingle with partners during luncheon.

Five years ago, St. HOPE founder and CEO, Kevin Johnson, called on eight organizations to stand up for Sac High. They understood that underserved students in our community were not afforded the educational opportunities they deserved. Over the years, these partners have committed to supporting the school through financial contributions and student enhancement programs. On November 27, St. HOPE had the opportunity to thank these major partners for supporting Sac High by hosting a Partner's Luncheon. The luncheon was held at the Sutter Club in downtown Sacramento. At each table, partners were paired with a Sac High student, which led to great discussions about Sac High, college, and careers. On behalf of all students, we'd like to thank KT Development, Bank of America, the Gates Foundation, Pacific Coast Building Products, UC Davis Medical Center, Wells Fargo Bank, the Walton Foundation, and Buzz Oates Enterprises.

SCUSD Holds Final Community Engagement Meeting

By Ronnie West

On Monday, December 3rd, staffers from Sac City Unified School District conducted the fourth and final community engagement meeting at Warren McClaskey Adult Education Center to discuss the future location of the Consent Decree high school. Similar to the community engagement meetings held at the Oak Park Community Center and Family Life Center, Monday's meeting saw an outpouring of purple. Students, staff and parents alike arrived at the meeting again prepared to voice their opinions and concerns about the potential location of the school that is scheduled to open in the fall. St. HOPE contends that the Consent Decree high school should not be co-located on the Sacramento High School Campus. Much of Sac High's success can be attributed to its culture—one that is four years in the making. A new high school could jeopardize Sac High's progress. On Thursday, December 6th, the District Staff will recommend a site for the Consent Decree school, and on December 20th, the Board will vote on the future site of the new high school. We encourage all of you to come out to support Sac High!



Sac High students and staff wait eagerly to speak at a community meeting.

Sac High Charter Renewal FAQs

Over the last four years, Sac High has made a significant, positive impact on student outcomes. For the next month we will document the value-added benefit to students as outlined below in the following frequently asked questions:

1. What have been the greatest successes in the reinvention of Sac High?

There are many quantitative measures that show how the school is a radically different place than it was five years ago. For example, Sac High's current API is the highest in the history of the school, 70% of last year's graduates were accepted to a 4-year college, and the "a-g" rate has risen 40%. Numbers alone, however, do not capture or articulate the most fundamental changes that have occurred, we've seen the transformation of the culture on campus from an unsafe, chaotic environment typified by low expectations and complacency to an orderly, disciplined learning environment characterized by high expectations, respect, student responsibility and a college-going mindset.

2. How have things changed from the original vision for Sac High?

The vision hasn't changed in substantive ways. Specifically, the operations, general expectations and outcomes for students have remained the same. We are truer to the original vision now than we've ever been. What has changed is the overall structure of the school, but not the level at which it operates or provides services to students. Our petition articulates a plan for the next five years of operation that is very similar to our current structure; a model that combines the best practices of larger campuses with the benefits of small schools.

3. What makes Sac High unique?

Sac High was the first initiative of its kind (a "Transformation High School") in the state of California and one of the few successful ventures in this arena across the nation. We are proud that our organization has succeeded in significantly altering the life chance and life outcomes of under-served students, particularly at the high school level (1,000-1,200 students this year).

SHS Charter Renewal Key Dates

The following is a list of key dates for Sac High's charter renewal and the Consent Decree high school. Please come out and support our school. For more info, call (916) 649-7900:

- **Dec. 6th, 6:00 pm – SCUSD Regular Board Meeting:** SCUSD staff will make a recommendation on Sac High's charter renewal petition and the consent decree school location to the board. This meeting will take place at The Serna Center located at 5735 47th Avenue in South Sacramento
- **Dec. 20th, 6:00 pm – SCUSD Regular Board Meeting:** The SCUSD Board of Education is expected to vote on Sac High's charter renewal petition and the location of the consent decree. This meeting will take place at The Serna Center as well.

Christmas with Charles Barkley

underground books and the Guild Theater are proud to announce that former NBA player and St. HOPE supporter Charles Barkley will be at the bookstore on December 21st to promote his book, *Who's Afraid of a Large Black Man?* Details of his visit will be in next week's *Pipeline*. Stay tuned.

SHPS Staff Competes in CIM

Congratulations to SHPS staff members who participated in last weekend's California International Marathon. Four teachers completed the full marathon. Kudos to Shannon Bynum (3:18:04), Taylor Blackburn (3:49:03), Tom Ryan (3:57:28), and Emily Wing (5:21:31). SHPS was represented by 4 relay teams as well. Kudos for taking on the challenge!

Guild Theater Update

Get your tickets at underground books for the upcoming Guild Theater events in December:

December 7th – 9th, 2007: Darla Givens presents "The Gift" a theatrical Stage Play

December 15th, 2007: Concert, Aaron Devon, benefiting Imani Project for Health & Culture

December 21, 2007: Charles Barkley Book Signing

December 22, 2007: Concert, Leon Gray Band

In the News

December 2,, 2007: Editorial: Data and costs don't justify a new high school

<http://www.sacbee.com/110/story/534251.html>

December 2, 2007: Daniel Weintraub: St. Hope deserves extension of charter

<http://www.sacbee.com/110/story/534132.html>

December 2, 2007: District must find site for campus

<http://www.sacbee.com/education/story/536077.html>