

PRESS RELEASE 0405-01

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LBUSD HIRES NEW TEACHERS

While students and their families are enjoying the leisure of the summer holidays, the Laguna Beach Unified School District has been prolifically preparing for the fall term by hiring a record number of new teachers and staff.

Assistant Superintendent, Steven Keller explains “Patty Beaver, Human Resources Coordinator, and I determined that we have hired more teachers this summer than at any time in the last 10-plus years.” He further adds, “The students and parents will be impressed with our new staff members. They are experienced, well versed in curriculum and instruction, student-focused, caring, and truly thrilled to be working in a utopian community such as Laguna Beach.”

Dr. Keller notes, “The applicant pools were significant. For example, we received over 400 applicants for the elementary teacher openings.”

Joining the district as new hires at Laguna Beach High School are Francisco Gomez and Sarah Schmitz, English; Mark Alvarez, Social Studies; Valerie Thompson, Science; Michelle Perez, Dance; Roger Shew, Jazz Band and Suzanne Dean, Counselor.

At Thurston Middle School Jason Babiar, Language Arts and Social Studies; Jennifer DeMark, Counselor; and Michelle Martinez, Social Science join the academic team.

Jamie Swintek joins the faculty at El Morro Elementary School and Peggy Lynch, Angela Irish, and Tiffany Willis join the teaching team at Top of the World Elementary.

Phillip Felix joins the staff at all four school sites teaching instrumental music. Thurston students, 4th and 5th grade students at both El Morro and Top of the World Elementary Schools will reap additional musical benefits as Mr. Felix will be adding strings to the instrumental curriculum.

Joining the Special Education Team are Kim Adams and Penelope Littlejohns. Kim will teach grades 3-5 Special Day Class at El Morro Elementary, and Penelope is our new Speech and Language Specialist at Top of the World Elementary and Thurston Middle School.

The 2004-05 school year is shaping up to be another outstanding opportunity for Laguna students.