

PRESS RELEASE 0405-02
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Summer School 2004 Successful for Students and Teachers

The enthusiastic energy of the regular school year does not conclude with the summer break in Laguna Beach Unified School District. For the past several weeks during Summer School a variety of academic pursuits have been available for students who are interested in improving their grade in a particular subject or who are making up credit for a class they have missed.

Under the capable and creative direction of Gretchen Ernsdorf, Laguna Beach High School Summer School Principal, students have had the opportunity to study in an academic atmosphere that is both casual and concentrated. Ms. Ernsdorf reflects on her experience, "One of my favorite facets of summer school is the opportunity to work with students and staff in a relaxed atmosphere. For most of the students, working within a concentrated time frame in a single subject is a recipe for success. I really enjoy visiting all the classes and chatting with the students during break."

Among the components of the high school's six week summer school are two English classes, math, social science, and special education.

One year of accelerated math, the 2nd year of Algebra, was available for incoming freshman. Passing the course test at the class conclusion will enable students to take geometry their freshman year at our high school. The class was coordinated with both Thurston Middle School and Laguna Beach High.

A one month, non-credit writing course was offered for students wanting to strengthen their writing skills.

Additionally, adult education was available for students whose schedule does not fit into the traditional academic system.

Summer School for the elementary and middle school grades under the leadership of Ron La Motte and Jenny Salberg focused on academic acceleration and intervention. The program was enhanced this year with a story teller and music component.

The middle school special education section was a four week study of a Career Exploration Unit under the excellent direction of Gloria Howell. At the conclusion of the study, Ms. Howell and the special education students sponsored a Career Exploration Fair for all summer school students. Representatives from Lake Forest Beauty College, Animal Crackers, South Coast Medical Center, and the Culinary Division of the Art Institute of California offered students interactive displays and presentations about their respective careers. Melissa Baker, the Laguna Beach High School WorkAbility Technician was instrumental in obtaining participants at the Career Exploration Fair.