

PRESS RELEASE 0607-20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT NANCY HUBBELL, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT,
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

(949) 497-7700 Ext. 200

Mandarin Chinese Class

Educating our students to be well rounded citizens of our world is an ongoing focus that LBUSD continues to embrace with a wide variety of educational programs.

One such District program began this February at Thurston Middle School. The Mandarin Chinese Language classes were made available to LBUSD students, parents, faculty, and local community. Two afternoon and evening classes, which meet twice a week, are coordinated by Chris Killiany, Unit Director of Southern California, Berlitz Language Center, and Dave Dixon, Foreign Language teacher at Thurston Middle School. The classes are taught by Berlitz teacher and native speaker, Jean Wu.

The class is learning how to speak Mandarin Chinese conversationally as well as learning *Pin yin*, the writing system that China encourages Westerners to use when learning to speak Chinese.

Mr. Dixon, who is also enrolled in the class as a student, is impressed with the multi-age level learners who share a variety of learning styles. The overwhelming response to the class has been so extraordinary that Dixon is hoping to add a Mandarin Chinese writing class to the Thurston Middle School summer school offerings.

Nancy Hubbell, Assistant Superintendent, applauds Mr. Dixon's leadership. "Dave Dixon is an extraordinarily innovative teacher. Through "Project Pacific", he initiated Japanese classes for our students more than a decade ago, and now introduces Mandarin, a language spoken by one out of every five people in the world. Mr. Dixon's enthusiasm for other languages and cultures provides our students the opportunity to become global citizens."