

# Culver Park High School Takes Care of Business

As 2016 drew to an end, Culver Park High School made some radically positive changes in the way we do business.

We started the year with a comprehensive orientation program that introduced students to us, and us to them. We offered diagnostic assessment, as well as enrichment and culture-building activities, in addition to introducing pertinent information about the school. Formerly, students had earned credits through individualized contracts, but this year we started two new initiatives: first, more teacher-facilitated classes, which would be more similar to traditional high school classrooms, yet with smaller student-teacher ratios. Still imbued with a strong commitment to anti-failure, our campus is characterized by multiple opportunities for one-on-one support. Our second new initiative was the increased use of online resources for non-teacher led classes, as opposed to textbook-based paper “contracts” of the past, which in some cases lacked rigor and/or were outdated in terms of current state standards. The students rewarded us for these efforts by completing twice as many classes in the same amount of time compared to past years.

Culver Park High School can be identified as the premier art-integrated “continuation” high school. In addition to our continuing work with artworxLA and Red Hen Press, we are enjoying our second year of partnerships with The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

and The Los Angeles Music Center. A new to partner for us this year is the famed Actor’s Gang Theatre. Our students also participate in holiday design contests, create their own spirit wear logos, enjoy online arts electives of Photography, Music and Art Appreciation. This semester, many of our students are enrolled in a Theatre Arts class taught right here on our campus.

At the beginning of December, Culver Park held our first annual “College and Career Week,” with a truly stellar cornucopia of activities which included: scholarship presentation and applications with CCHS’ Margaret Fujisawa, all students participating in Hour of Code, on campus WLACC registration, College Wear Day, a “Careers in the Arts” presentation by artworxLA, Sony Pictures Entertainment and CCEF representatives, and the ultimate: a whole-school field trip to Google Venice! Students earned what we refer to as “Redemption” hours for their proactive participation in the College and Career Week events. Our culture of redemption here at Culver Park High School, a term which can be defined as “clearing a debt,” encourages students to perform positive actions in order to negate past transgressions that may have earned them “detention” hours.

By the time this publication goes to press, our entire school will have been to The Los Angeles Music Center to see the world-famous Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe. We look



**GOOGLED** – Culver Park Wolves visit Google Venice

forward to watching our seniors walk the stage to receive their diplomas, 90% of whom are already pre-registered at WLACC and/or SMCC. This semester, we’ve also welcomed back our eleventh and second-semester 10th graders, who are enjoying and contributing to our arts-enriched, academically-engaging campus life.