



La Habra City School District

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December 8, 2017

To whom it may concern:

It is the mission of Washington Middle School to prepare all of our students for 21st Century College and Careers with a specific emphasis in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). At Washington, staff, students, and parents feel very strongly that if such preparations do not begin today, then many students may not be adequately prepared for the jobs and post-secondary programs that are in high demand. Through courses such as Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and a strong 1:1 iPad program, Washington students learn and develop skills on a daily basis that prepare them for the world of tomorrow.

One notable example of 21st Century Learning is the Washington Middle School Wind Wolves. Through guidance from Science and Engineering Teacher Dr. Pritchard, as well as other teachers at Washington, this group of dedicated, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable young students used the STEM skills that they learned at Washington to compete in a national competition focused on conservation.

The WMS Wind Wolves first asked for permission from both me and their principal to research renewable energy sources as well as pursue installation of these energy sources at their school. While learning more about alternative energies, the team reached out to several experts in their pursuit of the most current information available.

Their first interview was with Environmentalist and Actor Mr. Ed Begley, Jr. He helped the students better understand the history of renewable energy in California. He shared with the students his life style of eco-friendly living. He inspired the students to continue their efforts for the school. These students developed, implemented, and presented plans for wind and solar options as they pursue the renewable energy at WMS.

The team is reaching out to engineers at Cal Poly Pomona to learn more about the different designs and applications of both solar and wind energy. It is their hope to be so well versed in the subject that they can then approach alternative energy companies to ask for their assistance with installing wind and solar energy at Washington Middle School.

At Washington, the staff will continue to strive to provide the best and provide all Washington Middle School students the opportunity to thrive in the 21st century and I support and applaud the efforts of these amazing and talented students.

Sincerely,

Joanne Culverhouse, Ed.D.
Superintendent