

Office of Charter Schools OUSD

FEATURE

Newsletter

September 2014

New Charter Schools Open

The Office of Charter Schools is pleased to have authorized two new middle schools for the 2014-15 school year. Both [East Bay Innovation Academy](#) (EBIA) and [EPIC Middle School](#) (Education for Change) are tech-focused schools that prepare students to pursue design and engineering. We asked them to share the highlights of their opening weeks.

On August 18, East Bay Innovation Academy (EBIA) opened its doors at OUSD's Thurgood Marshall Campus. The first couple of weeks have been action-packed for students and staff. It's been a big shift from elementary school for EBIA students, who are now attending daily school-wide morning meetings and advisory sessions, while also becoming experts at Google Classroom and navigating curriculum playlists on their (decorated) Chromebooks. The first school design challenge was to ideate and choose a mascot—so we would like to close by introducing you to the mighty EBIA Phoenix! Please come see us anytime!



At Epic Charter School, in Oakland's Fruitvale District, students' educational experience is transformed into a game-like journey. And our opening was, well, epic. The week was spent on a mysterious quest, in which students learned the school rules, procedures, and how to work as a team. In the end, one group of astute students cracked the mystery and were able to enter a secret door. These Epic heroes then chose to share their boon with the rest of the school so the quest could continue.

TECHCONNECT

ISKME Big Ideas Fest 2014: Dec 7-10, Half Moon Bay

Each December, education stakeholders gather at Half Moon Bay for a three-day immersion into creative collaboration with a goal to transform K-20 education. ISKME's ([The Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education](#)) annual event [Big Ideas Fest](#) includes keynotes and RapidFire Talks with thought leaders hitting hard on important change points in education. [Action Collabs](#) provide design-thinking labs that engage groups of teachers, policy makers, students, funders, entrepreneurs and edupreneurs to brainstorm and prototype—on the spot—creating scalable solutions to the big issues in education. A lively combination of education evolution and revolution, the event provides a great pulse to systemic change occurring in education in an atmosphere that encourages risk and imagination, and informs national discussions for each year following the gathering.



Big Ideas Fest got its start when two creative visionaries found themselves dissatisfied by previous education conferences. “In 2008, Jonah Houston (now an ISKME board member) and I found ourselves on the same flight back to San Francisco from Salt Lake City, having just attended an education conference that failed to inspire us,” explains [Dr. Lisa Petrides](#), ISKME president. “The event was supposed to be about new thinking and innovation in education, yet we lamented that each person left with exactly the same perspective as they walked in with 3 days earlier. Once we realized that we had a lengthy flight delay, we began to talk about the need for an education-related event that was fully immersive...We wanted to create a festival of ideas as well as a design workshop to collaboratively prototype some of those ideas, and we wanted to bring a new sense of optimism to the field of education. And that is the origins of Big Ideas Fest. “

Registration is still open and should you decide to take part, you may have the pleasure of running into our very own Silke Bradford.



SPOTLIGHT

Credentialing Workshop

Credentialing is a necessary, but complex process that charter schools and CMOs are responsible for managing. This workshop, hosted Oct. 15-17 by the Credential Counselors and Analysts of California, will offer in-depth seminars on a variety of topics, including advanced credentialing, specific software navigation, reporting and trouble-shooting.

Visit the [CCAC site](#) for registration and more info.

SAVE THE DATE

Enrollment Report Due 09.26.14

Please don't forget to fill out and return the 2015-16 Enrollment Projection spreadsheet to [Ben](#).

Fall Info Update Due 10.1.14

This is another reminder to complete your school's Google spreadsheet and send an email to [Kamala](#) when you've completed it.

MPO & Charter Balanced Scorecard Working Group Meetings

Meeting 1: Wed 09.17.14// 3:30-5:00pm @ OCS 4551 Steele St. Rm. 9

Meeting 2: Tues 09.23.14// 4:00-5:30pm @ OCS 4551 Steele St. Rm. 9

The second session will build upon the first, but if you can only make one meeting, we would still appreciate your attendance and input.

Classroom Observation Rubric Working Group Meeting

Meeting 1: Wed 10.29.14// 3:30-5:00pm @ OCS 4551 Steele St. Rm. 9

Both working groups will review the templates that are in your OCS Handbook. We will take note of your thoughts, additions and alterations. If you'd like to attend and have not received an invite or would like a soft copy of the handbook please email [Kamala](#).

THE OCS DESK

New Charter Petitions 2014-2015

- French American Charter School of the East Bay (TK-8)// 08.13.14 (Approved)
- Castlemont Primary Academy (TK-5)// 08.27.14 (Approved)
- Roses in Concrete K-8 Community School// (TBD)

Charter Renewals 2014-2015

- Aspire Berkley Maynard (K-8)// (TBD)
- North Oakland Community Charter School (K-8)// (TBD)
- Lighthouse Community Charter High School/ (TBD)
- Oakland School for the Arts (6-12)// (TBD)