



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SMMUSD Announces Naming of School and Facility**

*Malibu Elementary School and Michelle and Barack Obama Center for Inquiry and Exploration both approved by school board*

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education approved the naming of the newly combined Juan Cabrillo Elementary School and Point Dume Marine Science School as Malibu Elementary School, and approved the naming of the facility housing Olympic High School, the new project-based learning pathway and other programs to the Michelle and Barack Obama Center for Inquiry and Exploration at a special board meeting on May 30, 2019 in Santa Monica.

**Malibu Elementary School**

The new Malibu Elementary School opens on the site of Point Dume Marine Science School and will welcome students, teachers and staff from both schools starting for the new 2019-20 school year in August.

Community members, teachers, parents and students were invited to suggest a name for the new school in May and the list of nearly 300 names were reviewed by a Malibu Naming Task Force who selected the top five suggestions. The names, all ending in Elementary School were: John and Amanda Ballard, Malibu, Ocean, Surfside and Westward.

Teachers, staff and parents voted in a ranked order format and nearly 60% selected Malibu Elementary School as the top choice.

New Malibu Elementary School Principal Christopher Hertz starts on July 1, 2019, and will lead the effort to select a mascot and colors with students and staff when school opens in August.

**Michelle and Barack Obama Center for Inquiry and Exploration** *(see diagram describing center)*

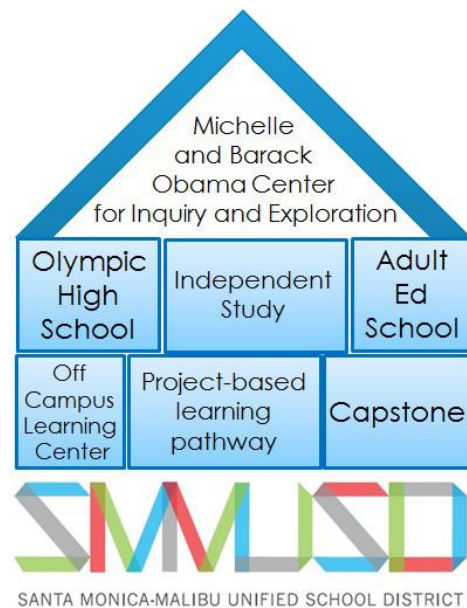
The new Michelle and Barack Obama Center for Inquiry and Exploration is the name of the facility that will house Olympic High School, the new project-based learning pathway, the adult education school, Off Campus Learning Center and the future Capstone program, under one roof at 721 Ocean Blvd. This is the current location of Olympic High School, which continues at this shared site.

“We are thrilled to name this facility after the Obamas to recognize their contributions to education and closing the achievement gap,” School Board President Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein said. “They inspired and continue to inspire new generations in the joy of learning and education. This naming reflects our values and the Obamas’ vision of inclusion, acceptance and innovation.”

The new project-based learning pathway is starting this fall with 100-ninth grade students and will continue to grow to 400 in this Santa Monica High School program in the next four years.

The campus has been undergoing modernization the past two years that will be completed this summer and has included new floors, new windows, new doors and new ceilings along with painting. The library media center, computer lab, science lab, music lab and auditorium have undergone complete renovation and include 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology and learning tools and equipment. New heating, air conditioning and ventilation has been installed throughout campus. Exterior areas, landscaping and security systems have all been upgraded and new furniture is in all spaces including classrooms. The district took this opportunity to properly remove all environmentally hazardous materials, such as lead, asbestos and polychlorinated biphenyls from all buildings as part of the modernization project.

Both the Malibu Elementary School name and Obama Center name will take effect for the upcoming school year.



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