



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SMMUSD Personalized Project-Based Learning Pathway Announces 9th & 10th Grade Admissions Campaign

***Limited Space Available for New Program –
Parent Tours Available in February and March***

SANTA MONICA/MALIBU Ca. - The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is opening admissions for its second year of the Personalized Project-Based Learning pathway (PPBL). This unique and exceptional high school educational program is now accepting applications for the 2020-21 school year.

The campus, located at the new Barack and Michelle Obama Center for Inquiry and Innovation, will accept only 100 ninth and a limited number of 10th grade students. The program is expanding and parents across the district are talking about how they want to be a part of it. The first cohort of students will be moving into 10th grade in September, and a new group of ninth graders will be entering the high school program.



“My son was hesitant at first, with a new school, and programs that allow him to create his own learning experience. Through this program, he has found an unyielding support by each of his teachers, each of them encouraging his ideas and passions to help guide his learning experience, while getting the required rigorous education that we expect from high school.” -
Cindy Short, parent of a PPBL ninth grader.

“The PPBL pathway is a place where students excel through inquiry, doing, and reflection. Students and teachers collaborate in personalized, student-driven, passion-based, experiential learning,” Principal Jessica Rishe said.

Parents of current eighth grade students from Lincoln Middle School, John Adams Middle School, SMASH and Malibu Middle School, along with eligible 10th graders living in the SMMUSD boundaries, are invited to attend an information tour/session in February and March, about the program.

Parent and student tours are available NOW. Parents and students may attend any scheduled session: **Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Jan 31, Feb 21, Feb 28, March 13 and March 20 at the school, 721 Ocean Park Blvd.** Parking lot off Lincoln and Pine. [Please sign up for a tour!](#)

Watch this video to learn more: <http://bit.ly/2SiSDX3>. Application deadline is March 20, 2020.

The district's objective is for all students to graduate ready for college and careers from schools that are safe, socially responsible and academically rigorous. This is accomplished at PPBL through a self-reflective, shared system of accountability that consistently uses culturally relevant best practices to maximize equitable student outcomes. The PPBL program is another avenue for our students to meet their goals.

Students engage in internships and multi-disciplinary projects based on their interests, and graduate with a Samohi diploma and real-world experience prepared to thrive in any two- or four-year college or career.

The program is designed to serve students of all abilities, interests, aspirations, and socio-economic backgrounds. Because of the individualized approach, this model works to meet the needs of all students, from the most vulnerable to the highest achieving.

Parents attending an information meeting will learn about project-based learning, curriculum, rollout plan, location of the program, application process and deadlines, availability of electives, and extracurricular activities. Parents of students in all grades are also welcome to attend, along with community members, to learn more about this innovative program.

Additionally, brochures are available through all SMMUSD middle schools and online at <https://www.smmusd.org/PPBL/>

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