

New Pre-schools Open at Two High Schools

Two Phoenix Union high schools, Carl Hayden and Central opened pre-schools on campus this fall, as part of the District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Early Childhood Education program.

Carl Hayden's Little Falcons Pre-school (3333 W. Roosevelt) and the Central Cubs Pre-school (4525 N. Central Avenue) are enrolling fully-potty trained children, ages 3, 4 and 5.

The pre-schools are staffed by a certified pre-school director, and two assistants. Eleventh and 12th grade high school students also participate in the preschool as part of their Early Childhood Education requirements.

Pre-school hours are 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday on school days, and will be closed during school holidays and breaks. The monthly tuition will be discounted for days the high school is not in session. A light breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack will be provided.

The two programs will join Metro Tech and Betty Fairfax as Phoenix Union schools pre-schools. Another pre-school will open later in the year, at South Mountain High School.

For more information, call Carl Hayden at (602) 764-3000, or Central at (602) 764-7591.

College, Scholarships Attainable Based on Community College Placement Test

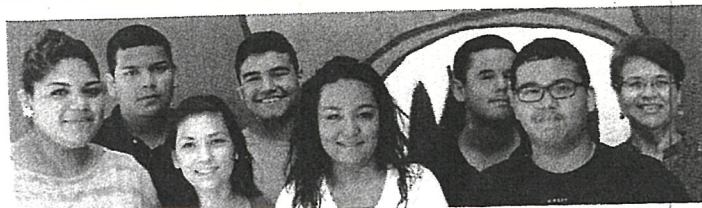
Phoenix Union has historically used a battery of ACT exams, from ACT EXPLORE and ACT PLAN in grades 9 and 10, to the ACT College Entrance Exam as juniors to determine whether students are college-ready. The tests have benchmarks

indicating whether students would be able to pass college level courses. Literacy consultant Gene Fazio and Trevor Browne English teacher Janice Koivisto (now the District's Literacy Coach), decided to try another measuring stick last May at Trevor Browne. Fazio, who spent years teaching in the community college system, wanted to see how a group of 50 sophomore students could do on an AccuPlacer test, a national test used for determining the college readiness of freshmen for regular college reading, English and math courses. As a faculty emeritus from Mesa Community College (MCC), Fazio was able make special arrangements to have MCC administer the WritePlacer exam on a one-time basis for this research study.

The results were quite encouraging. Fifty percent of Koivisto's sophomore test group scored a 5 or 6 on the WritePlacer, which places them at the freshmen college writing level (English 101). At MCC, the current placement level for high school seniors (incoming college freshmen) is approximately 45%. Eight of Koivisto's students scored a 6 and those students would qualify for the MCC Presidential Scholarship, if they have similar scores in reading and math. Forty-two students, or 84% of the test group had a 4, 5 or 6, placing them ahead of the current MCC incoming freshmen's scores. The test is usually untimed, but for this administration, the students had to finish the test in just one 55-minute class period.

"These students still have two years of high school to go, and they did better than typical incoming college freshman," Fazio said. "This test showed that the students are ready for college work, and in some cases, able to earn scholarships."

"My sophomores scored well on their AIMS Writing tests but Gene (Fazio) and I knew the students were much further along in their writing skill set than the AIMS results showed Koivisto said. "Set your sights on graduation," was something my sophomores were used to hearing. But I asked them to set their sights on college. Their excellent test results proved they are college-ready, college-worthy AND scholarship-worthy."



Students that would qualify for the MCC Presidential Scholarship if they scored similarly in reading and math, with teacher Janice Koivisto. Left to right: Daisy Nava, Juan Rios, Marie Manzano, Quintin Shdle, Sandra Delgado, Raymundo Cordova, Allen Balderas and Janice Koivisto (Alan Orejel is not pictured.)



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For More Information Call (602) 764-1420.

