

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

May 2014

H. FRANK DOMINGUEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PREPARES TO OPEN IN AUGUST

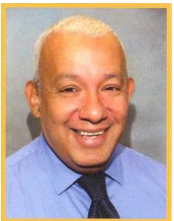
H. Frank Dominguez Elementary School
135 S. Allen Street
San Bernardino, CA 92408



About the School:

- Principal: Mr. Alejandro Hernandez
- District: San Bernardino City Unified School District
- Site Acreage: 10.19 Acres
- Total Square Footage for all Buildings: 32,136 sq ft
- Classrooms: 19
- Grades: K – 6
- Projected Enrollment = 400 students
- Amenities include: Apple software integration via iPads and mounted projectors in all classrooms, Computer Lab, Library, and Baseball Fields.

About the Principal:



Principal Hernandez comes from a family of educators. An immigrant from El Salvador, he understands the struggles of the students he serves. Like their parents, he immigrated to the United States in search of a better life. And, like him, students can reach their goals if they remain focused on their education and set goals for themselves.

Hernandez began his career working in an inner-city Los Angeles school and most recently served the San Bernardino City Unified School District as Principal of Muscoy Elementary School. Before becoming an administrator, Hernandez taught at Lincoln Elementary School, where he worked with students in the Dual Immersion and Alternative Bilingual Education programs.

As Principal of Muscoy, the school experienced impressive test-score gains that raised the school's Academic Performance Index to 774, just 26 points shy of the state-mandated 800. Principal Hernandez is humble and gives all the credit to his teachers. According to Hernandez, "Getting to this point has been challenging because the majority of the school's students are still learning the English language and many of them live in poverty".

THE VANIR FOUNDATION WELCOMES LAUREL ELEMENTARY AS A PARTNER SCHOOL

Laurel Elementary School
1410 Laurel Street
Oceanside, CA 92054

About the school:

- Principal: Mr. Freddie Chavarria
- District: Oceanside Unified School District
- Grades: K – 6
- Population = 575 students
- 90% - free/reduced lunch
- Demographics: Hispanic = 94% / White = 3% / Black = 2% / Asian = 1%



About the Principal:



Principal Freddie Chavarria grew up in Oceanside, CA and attended Laurel Elementary School, so he is keenly aware of the gang culture and violence surrounding the school. Although he grew up in this neighborhood, Principal Chavarria was able to attend UCLA for his Bachelor's degree in Biology. He later received his Master's degree in Educational Administration from National University. He credits his success to the help of teachers, his parents and after school activities.

Principal Chavarria began his career working as a Math and Science teacher. Chavarria has worked with at-risk, gifted and English Language Learning students. In addition, he has led parent groups and administered several after school programs. Principal Chavarria has received numerous accolades including Administrator of the Year Award, San Diego County Teacher of the Year, Oceanside Teacher of the Year and National University Best Educator Award.

MOTHER OF SORROWS SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER

When Mother of Sorrows School launched the Engineering is Elementary curriculum, word spread throughout the school. Students were very excited to join the Engineering Club and stay after school to build solar ovens and windmills using popsicle sticks and cotton balls. Now, those students continue to be involved with the club and call themselves Junior Engineers.

Vanir Ambassadors Byanka Gaxiola and Josel Erfe chaperoned the Engineering Club on a field trip to visit the California Science Center. The 5th grade students prepared a list of questions which were used to help measure student learning that resulted from the field trip. Throughout the day, the students learned the answers to their questions from interactions with the chaperons and from



volunteers present at the Science Center. At the end of the field trip, Vanir chaperons took time to orally answer any questions for which the students had not yet received answers.

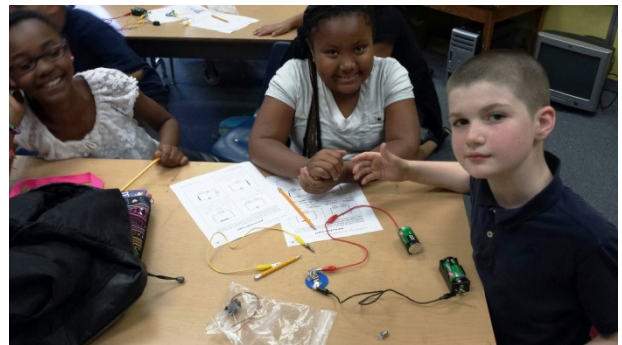
By the end of the day, the students had discussed questions/topics including.

- Can a space shuttle fit in the smallest galaxies?
- When was the first shuttle created?
- Why do galaxies look like swirls?
- Do old pieces of planets help create new planets?
- How was the universe and galaxies created?
- How are the stars and planets created?
- Why did they (astronauts and NASA) create the Hubble in the first place?
- How did the Hubble travel back in time?

Ms. Erfe enjoyed serving as a chaperon for the field trip and stated, "the field trip was a lot of fun. I am hardly around any children, so the trip was a refreshing experience for me. They were very intelligent and sweet". The Vanir Foundation was pleased to facilitate the field trip for the group of students. Principal Villareal stated, "It makes me [her] so happy to hear that the students enjoyed themselves while learning. I really hope we can do this again."

BRET HARTE LAUNCHES ENGINEERING IS ELEMENTARY FOR THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

Bret Harte has launched their first Engineering is Elementary program for 3rd and 4th grade students. Every Friday the group of students along with instructors, Principal Lorena Carillo and Vanir Ambassador Jordi Rodriguez meet after school for some hands-on studying of electrical circuits. The instructors are guided by a storybook where student's learn of Emily; a girl living in the Australian outback who needs an alarm to remind her when it's time for chores around the ranch.



The hands-on activities teach students about conductors and insulators. Students are introduced to engineering concepts by being challenged with making a waterproof, reliable alarm system. Students begin to think like electrical engineers themselves as they think about the energy transformation that occur within the electrical appliances they see daily in the classroom. Students perform experiments to identify conductors and insulators. For the final design challenge, students will apply all their knowledge learned in the program and will plan, create and improve on their very own alarm circuit.

Principal Carillo stated, "the kids are loving the program, so we expect to run another two session in the next school year". The Vanir Foundation is proud to sponsor science exploration programs like Engineering is Elementary. Exposing the students to engineering concepts helps engage their science, math and literacy knowledge through a project-based approach.