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LAUSD CELEBRATES OPENING OF CENTRAL LOS ANGELES MIDDLE  
SCHOOL #4

New school utilizes technology as a teaching tool

(Los Angeles) - Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board Member Mónica García was joined by Los Angeles City Councilmembers Jose Huizar and Jan Perry as students, parents and community members celebrated the opening of Central Los Angeles Middle School #4. The new school provides much needed relief to three middle schools in one of the most densely-populated areas of Los Angeles.

"The middle school years are critical in providing every student the tools necessary to be academically successful," said Board Member Mónica García. "As we move towards 100% graduation and college eligibility, it is with great pride that we open the doors to a new middle school in South Los Angeles!"

The new school offers a rigorous core curriculum, enhanced by a focus on the use of technology in instruction. Teachers integrate computers into English and Social Studies classes, and math and science will be taught in a specialized, interactive laboratory. A library multimedia center supports the technological emphasis of the instructional program. Central Los Angeles Middle School #4 opened last month, and provides 1,701 seats to students in grades 6 - 8. The school relieved overcrowding at Adams, Carver and Los Angeles Academy Middle Schools, providing sufficient capacity to allow Adams to return to a traditional calendar, and eliminating the need to involuntarily bus Carver students to schools outside the neighborhood.

"This new school exemplifies the impact of the new construction program on the instructional environment," said Superintendent Roy Romer. "Creating smaller schools allows administrators and teachers to increase their focus on the math and science skills that are so critical for student success."

The design of the campus maximizes space in the dense, urban environment by extending the buildings to the street edge and incorporating an internal courtyard and play areas. Hill Street splits the campus requiring the inclusion of a pedestrian bridge. Shared amenities such as the library, administrative area, multipurpose room and food services are located on the ground floor to enliven the courtyard, while the second floor is comprised of classrooms. The entire campus spans 8.9 acres.

"The District is accomplishing its goals of moving students to a traditional calendar and eliminating the need for bussing," said Guy Mehula, Chief Facilities Executive. "This new school provides students from overcrowded middle schools in this area the kind of educational environment they deserve." The LAUSD opened 13 new schools this year,

eliminating involuntary bussing for elementary school students and returning 31 schools to a 180-day, full-year calendar.

Central Los Angeles New Middle School #4 is part of the LAUSD's \$19.3 billion school construction program to build 150 schools by 2012. The program is designed to provide a neighborhood school on a traditional calendar for every student, eliminate involuntary bussing and create small learning communities in every high school. By the end of 2006, the LAUSD will have opened 65 new schools, completed 44 additions, and opened 22 Early Education Centers. The campus also houses two new Green Dot charter schools, Ánimo Jefferson and Ánimo Jackie Robinson. These schools provide additional seats to address overcrowding at Jefferson High School. # # #