



DoDEA Pacific

Dec. 2013



New DoDEA CSP Offers New Direction strong foundations for strong futures

By Dr. Linda L. Curtis

Although I have only been Director of DoDEA Pacific a short time, I have been dually impressed by the camaraderie and professionalism I have witnessed during school visits. As we continue to face many challenges, you and your colleagues have chosen to focus on the best interests of our students rather than yield to the noise and uncertainty. More to the point, the DoDEA Pacific team has taken each challenge in stride—adjusting, innovating and overcoming on behalf of our students with a professional poise that inspires excellence for our schools and communities alike.

One of the hallmarks of a high-performing team is a commitment to excellence at every level and I am deeply proud to know this commitment is alive and well here in the Pacific.

Another hallmark of a high-performing team is regular self-reflection and an ability to channel lessons learned and new ideas into adapting, growing and improving steadily over time.

In the spirit of self-reflection, we are currently reviewing all areas of our operations for alignment with the goals outlined in the new DoDEA Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The purpose of these reviews is to strike a prudent balance between our available resources and the most pressing, mission-essential needs that contribute directly to student academic outcomes.

The DoDEA CSP has been the bedrock of our organizational planning for many years. The CSP has evolved over time and the newest edition—spanning school years 2013/14 to 2017/18—represents an important new direction for DoDEA. The new CSP is backed by extensive research, reflects the contemporary needs of our students, establishes concise performance measures thoughtfully selected to maximize student academic outcomes, incorporates critical aspects of the school accreditation process, and outlines a clear and accessible path to success.

It is imperative that everyone become familiar with the new DoDEA CSP as all efforts and key decisions will be based on the mission, vision, core values and the following strategic goals outlined in the document:

- Student Excellence
- School Excellence
- Talent Excellence
- Organizational Excellence
- Outreach Excellence



As an example, these are a few of the concrete priorities here in the Pacific that will help us fulfill the new CSP strategic goals:

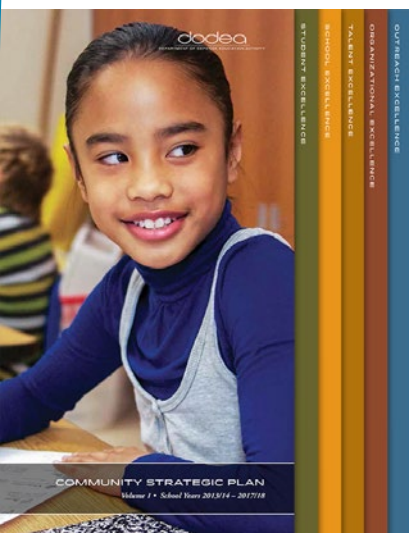
- Continuing support in the military transformation process to ensure DoDEA Pacific schools are resourced to meet evolving mission requirements. Supports goal 5
- Innovation in every dimension to maximize limited resources for high-quality programs. Supports all goals of the new CSP.
- Continue to promote partnerships and outreach programs that connect our students with engaging Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) opportunities. Supports goals 1, 2, 3 and 5.

These priorities will be augmented by others as we complete our operational and program reviews in the months ahead. Positive change is always the intent and the new CSP will ensure our decisions are sound, effective, and most important of all, student centered.

Although I have been with DoDEA for over 25 years and understand our issues well, I also know each area, district and school has unique circumstances and needs. As I visit our schools and offices in the months ahead, all are welcome and encouraged to ask questions, share ideas or offer suggestions for improvement. I also encourage feedback via email at any time and will do my best to respond personally:

Director.DoDDSPac@pac.dodea.edu

Thank you for your many contributions to the students, families and communities we serve. Happy holidays and best wishes for your continued personal and professional success.



[Click to view full PDF](#)



Principal Maria Buchwald (left) accepts the National Blue Ribbon Award on behalf of Seoul American MS in Washington DC.

Seoul American Middle School Named 2013 Blue Ribbon School excellence in action

By Lawrence Torres III

The US Department of Education recently recognized Seoul American Middle School as a 2013 National Blue Ribbon School.

Only 35 miles from the border of North Korea with more than 450 students, Seoul American MS was among 286 schools to earn the Blue Ribbon award in the U.S.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' academic achievement. Since the program was founded in 1982, over 7,000 of America's schools have received this award.

Seoul American MS Principal Maria Buchwald said she is part of a legacy of administrators and teachers who have built a culture of success in the school.

"I'm most proud of our students and their focus on learning," said Buchwald, who arrived at the school in Aug. 2012. "Everyone at Seoul American Middle School is student-centered. We're focused on challenging each student to maximize his or her potential and to excel academically, socially, emotionally and physically for life, college and career readiness."

"This Blue Ribbon Award recognizes schools that can show sustained growth over a 5 year period," added Buchwald, who has 17 years of teaching experience

and 15 years serving as an administrator for DoDEA schools. "Becoming a Blue Ribbon School is actually a very long process."

Living and studying in a location that experiences "extreme political tension often bordering on the verge of conflict is a reality for the students," said Erin Grazak, who became the Seoul American MS assistant principal in Aug. 2012.

"Teachers, counselors, administrators, and other stakeholders including the PTO, military command, and youth services work together to ensure the school has a safe and engaging learning environment that supports the emotional, social, physical, and academic growth of all students," Grazak added.



Seoul American MS students deliver coal to an orphanage in South Korea, which is their only source of heat in the winter.

Several teachers and parents had glowing praise for their school and the students.

"Seoul American Middle School has dedicated staff, active parents and community members and students who are determined to be successful. It's a perfect combination for success," said David Burkett, who has been teaching for 18 years, three of them with Seoul American MS. "Students are challenged, expectations are held high and are attainable, stakeholders are held accountable, and the staff is always looking at new innovative ways to increase student achievement."

Information Specialist Anneliese Hyde said the school is also transparent and continually engages the parents, staff, students, community and command with honest communication.

Continues on pg. 3



Seoul American MS students pose for a photo prior to band class. More than half of the students at Seoul American MS are in the band.

Budget Blues a survival guide for schools

By Charles Hoff

It's no secret that funds are tight and making the most of every penny in the current budget climate will take some extra "MacGyvering." This survival guide provides school-level educators and support staff the know-how to ensure our classrooms and schools remained stocked to rock.

Funding for supplies and equipment is provided each fiscal year to schools across DoDEA based on a standard, per-student formula. The federal budget fiscal year begins 1 Oct. and runs through the following 30 Sept. As the fiscal year does not align to the school year, some extra planning is necessary and this guide will help you know when, where and how to make a request.

While budgets are always limited, funding for supplies and equipment has been provided to each school and office in DoDEA Pacific to manage day-to-day operations. At the school level, the following categories apply to supplies and equipment funding:

- Supplies: classroom supplies, copier paper, custodial supplies, etc.
- Curriculum Program: textbooks, art supplies, curriculum manipulatives, etc.
- Information Center: books, information resources, etc.
- Equipment: science equipment, white boards, etc.
- Furniture: classroom and office furniture, cafeteria tables, etc.
- Athletic/Band Uniforms and Equipment: athletic/band uniforms and equipment for high schools and band equipment for grades 6-8
- Technology: elmos, smartboards, cameras, projectors, etc. (please note: computers and printers are managed through a separate funding process)

Currently, the U.S. government is operating in Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) on a "Continuing Resolution Authority" often



The MATHCOUNTS team at Seoul American MS placed first in the 2012 DoDDS MATHCOUNTS State Competition.

Continued from pg. 2

"Failure is not an option," said Hyde, who has been with Seoul American MS for 6 years. "We use a variety of methods, locations, instruments, technological support, and creative thinking to meet the needs of our diverse student population."

Seoul American MS parent Matt Hardy credited the school's Blue Ribbon achievement to "a covenant (which) has been established between the teachers, administrators, parents, and students that are committed to an unparalleled educational experience."

For more information about the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html> ■

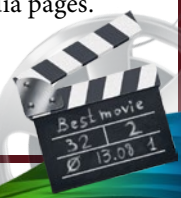


The White House has announced its first-ever video contest for K-12 students

Submissions must be under three minutes and spotlight at least one of the following themes: how technology is currently used in the classroom or school or what role technology will play in education in the future.

Submissions are due January 29, 2014. Finalists will have their films shown at the White House. Final videos may also be featured on the White House web site, YouTube channel, and social media pages.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/filmfestival>



...Budget Blues a survival guide for schools

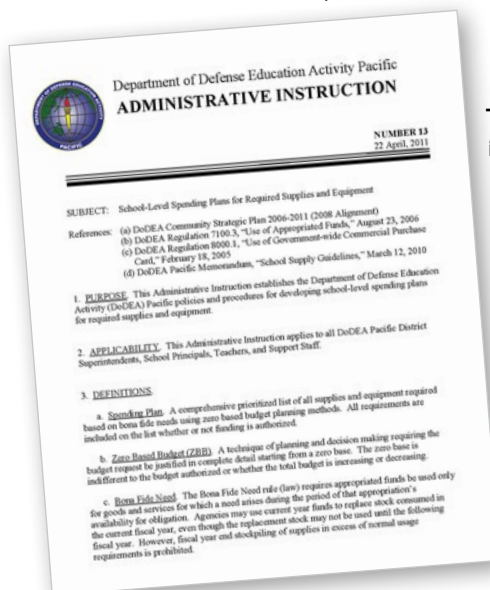
referred to as a CRA or CR. Basically, a FY14 budget has not been passed by Congress and the CR only provides temporary bridge funding through 15 Jan. 2014. Budget authority will expire on that date unless Congress passes another temporary CR or a final FY14 budget bill. Operating under a CR can be challenging because funding is limited to the same level as the prior fiscal year and no “new” starts are permitted. However, routine supplies, equipment and other services necessary to meet mission requirements are permitted.

If you are in need of supplies, equipment, or some other requirement, here’s how to get started:

- First, check around to see if what you need is already on hand. Although office supply hoarding is strongly discouraged, schools and offices normally have an appropriate level of supplies on hand. To prevent unnecessary stress and expense, ask around to see if anyone has that extra toner cartridge, ream of paper or set of binders you need before submitting a purchase request.
- If the supply shelves don’t pan out, draft up a clear and concise justification for your request. Link your justification back to the new DoDEA CSP and cite the goal(s) and/or performance measure(s) that the request supports. This modest, up-front investment may pay long-term dividends when it comes time to rack and stack competing requests. No need to overdo it, a few sentences is usually adequate.
- Next, conduct some basic market research. Try your best to locate at least three sources for your item(s). GSAadvantage.gov is a good place to start and you can always google more options—please forgive me fellow grammarians for using google as a verb! Attach three quotes or web pages listing item information and prices to your request. Check to be sure the vendor can actually ship your item(s) to a military postal address and preferably via USPS Priority Mail. Although international commercial shipping is possible, it can be costly. Your government purchase card (GPC) cardholder will need this information if your request is approved. Your school may have a special form so be sure to include it in your request.
- Next, contact your grade-level team leader or department chair to prevent duplicate requests. Ask that your request be forwarded to the principal for further consideration.
- The principal will work with grade-level team leaders, department chairs, CSI team members and others as appropriate to review, validate and prioritize requests. Requests supported by a sound justification and market research should fare well in the review and prioritization process.
- If the request is not approved, it will be returned to you with a specific explanation.
- If the request is approved, it will be added to the “prioritized spending plan”—also known as a 1-n list—that every school is required to keep on file. The 1-n

list is a living, breathing document that specifies and prioritizes requirements. Remember, if your request is not on the list, *it doesn’t exist!*

- Finally, check on the status of your request from time to time to see where you stand. This is meant to be a transparent process and school employees may view their local 1-n list at any time.



This process is outlined in the [DoDEA Pacific Administrative Instruction No. 13](#) dated 22 April 2011. Contact your principal or supervisor if you need additional information.

Ideally, purchase requests will be submitted at the beginning of the school year and then again during planning for the following school year. However, requests under \$3,000 can be submitted at any time. For requests over \$3,000, additional steps and deadlines apply. In fact, any request through 30 Sept. 2014 that exceeds \$3,000 must be submitted to your principal or supervisor before 12 Dec. 2013 to meet the DoDEA advanced acquisition planning deadline. That’s a big change from previous fiscal years so you need to act quickly if you have an expensive requirement in mind!

As federal employees entrusted with taxpayer funds, we must maximize our limited resources to deliver enduring value. And when mission-essential needs arise, we have a shared responsibility to advocate for supplies and equipment that will improve learning outcomes for our students. Don’t let the headlines fool you. While budgets are more limited than in years past, there are funds available—if you know and follow the process. ■



Pacific Highlights



Ms. Tina Lisk

E.C. Killin Elementary School Teacher Selected as DoDEA History Teacher of the Year

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is proud to announce Tina Lisk as the 2013 DoDEA History Teacher of the Year. Lisk teaches history at E.C. Killin Elementary School in Okinawa, Japan.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/1ccFaAI>

McCool Elementary/Middle School student places fourth in National History Day competition

Watch the Video!
<http://bit.ly/1bbuRkN>

"Oh Mr. Sam, Sam, my dear Uncle Sam, won't you please come back to Guam?" is a verse from a popular song the indigenous Chamorro people sang during the Japanese occupation of their beloved homeland from 1941-1944.

This dramatic song catapults the viewer back in time in the opening of the video documentary "At the Crossroads" by Robert Jon Kranz which won 4th place in the Junior Individual Documentary portion of the 2013 Kenneth E. Behring



R.J. Kranz

National History Day Contest held June 9-13 at the University of Maryland.

The documentary by Kranz, aka RJ, covers the overall effects of atomic bomb testing on the Marshall Islands east of Guam following WWII in 1946. The video includes his interview with Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo, Guam delegate to the US House of Representatives, and a video interview with Dr. Robert Underwood, the former Guam congressman.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/18sCe58>

McCool ES/MS student wins October Artist Spotlight

The DoDEA Artist Spotlight is a monthly artwork challenge open to current DoDEA students and is held on the DoDEA Facebook fan page. Students are encouraged to submit a work of art and then have the opportunity to vote on their favorite image by selecting the Facebook "Like" button.

October's winner was Kairi, from McCool ES/MS!

Read More: <http://bit.ly/1dn01HP>



Kairi's winning artwork



DoDEA Pacific Honors Veterans

View More: <http://smu.gs/IK4R3Q>

Watch the Far East Jazz Festival Concert webcast

The 2013 Far East Jazz Festival concert is available for on-demand viewing through High School Cube.

Check it out! <http://bit.ly/18nB6MJ>



Far East Jazz Festival

DoDEA Pacific names 2013 Volunteer Excellence Award recipients

The awards celebrate volunteer contributions to the DoDEA mission: highest student achievement.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/1tR3us>

DoDEA Pacific Schools Celebrate Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is a week when millions of our American population wear a red ribbon to show that our young people and our adults are united for a drug-free society.

DoDEA Pacific schools took that commitment to a drug free life even further with a week long assortment of activities and events.

Schools submitted lots of wonderful photos of their proud students.

See More: <http://smu.gs/17SWaud>



Seoul MS Students show their pride in being drug free

Click to see more great events and recognition in DoDEA Pacific

[Schools celebrate Back-to-School 2013!](#)

[National Day of Service and Remembrance](#)

[Humphreys Central ES Grand Opening](#)

[Far East Cross Country](#)



Dr. Schlossberg with Yokota HS JROTC students

U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy visits Yokota

Dr. Edwin Schlossberg--spouse of new U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy--and USFJ Deputy Commander MG O'Donnell visited Yokota HS on 22 Nov. 2013. They stopped by the JROTC lab to see how they are incorporating STEM into their daily instruction and activities:

Read More: <http://1.usa.gov/1eIrDdg>

Dr. Linda L. Curtis
Director

Dr. Joyce Lutrey
Deputy Director for CIA

Chas Kelker
Chief of Staff

Charles Hoff
Public Affairs Officer

Kristin A. Dohn
Visual Information Specialist

Lawrence Torres III
Public Affairs Specialist

Contact us:
PublicAffairs@pac.dodea.edu

Photo of the Month:



Students at Zukeran Elementary School
welcome in the new school year!
View more:
<http://dodeapac.smugmug.com/Back-to-School>

Upcoming Dates

DEC

16-19 Far East Creative Expressions *in* Tokyo
23 Winter Recess Begins

JAN

6 Instruction Resumes
9-12 Harvard Model Congress *in* Hong Kong, China
23 End of Second Quarter and First Semester
24 No school for students - Teacher work day
27 Begin Third Quarter and Second Semester
Jan 29-Feb 1 Far East JROTC Marksmanship Event @ King HS

FEB

TBD MathematicaFest
3-6 Far East Journalism *in* Tokyo
5-6 Far East Culinary Arts @ Yokota AB
10-13 Far East English/Dramatic Arts *in* Seoul, South Korea
13-15 Far East Wrestling @ Yokota HS
17-19 Far East D2 Boys Basketball @ Perry HS
17-19 Far East D2 Girls Basketball @ Daegu HS
17-20 Far East D1 Boys Basketball @ Kubasaki HS
17-20 Far East D1 Girls Basketball @ Kinnick HS

Good to Know



There IS an app for that

AFN Pacific now offers live streaming to desktops across the Pacific and to mobile devices in Japan and South Korea. You can even listen to your local AFN affiliate!

<http://www.afnpacific.net/afn360.aspx>

Military OneSource

The latest edition of the Military OneSource eNewsletter is available. *Highlights include:* how to maintain healthy habits during holiday festivities, planning a staycation, preparing for tax season and benefits of finding a mentor.

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/enewsletter>



Feedback is welcome and encouraged!

Please send us any suggested improvements or stories you would like to see in future editions:

PublicAffairs@pac.dodea.edu



Web:
<http://www.dodea.edu/pacific>



Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/dodea.pacific>



Twitter:
http://twitter.com/dodea_pac



YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/DODEAPAC>



HighSchoolCube:
<http://www.highschoolcube.com/districts/dodea-pacific>



SmugMug:
<http://dodeapac.smugmug.com>