



News Release

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Baldwin Park Middle School to Unveil STEM Lab Transformation

District converts 1950s classroom into 21st century learning space

BALDWIN PARK – Baldwin Park Unified’s Holland Middle School will hold a grand-opening celebration at 1 p.m. **Friday, May 5** for two science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) labs that will provide technology-rich learning environments for students pursuing specialized courses in engineering, robotics, forensic medicine and aeronautics.

The transformation, executed over the last seven months, replaces a pair of 1950s classrooms with collaboration-friendly labs with reconfigurable workspaces, 3D printers and VEX robotics kits.

“It’s a stunning difference,” Superintendent Froilan N. Mendoza said. “We took static rooms mired in the past and completely reimagined them for 21st century learning. We are providing an extraordinary shift in opportunity for our students.”

One of the labs contains 16 lab-style tables and the other 18. They share 27 VEX robotics kits and six 3D printers. Each room can accommodate about 36 students. They also contain systems that link projectors with interactive, touch-sensitive white boards that can be used to broadcast lesson videos and allow students to make notes directly on the screens.

Holland – which has a STEM focus – is already using the rooms for courses in engineering design and modeling, as well as automation and robotics with curriculum designed by Project Lead The Way, the nation’s leader in developing STEM courses. In 2017-18, courses will be added on flight and space, forensic medicine, and App Design. The rooms will also serve as home for the school’s robotics competition team.

“This is a critical step to providing our students with the tools they will need to prepare for the rigors of STEM studies in college and pursue high-value careers,” Holland Principal Mike Rust said.

Rust said the school plans to add three more STEM labs.

Friday’s grand opening celebration will include remarks from Mendoza, Rust, Holland students and Kimberly Jones, Project Lead The Way’s director of school engagement for the west region. Visitors will also be able to tour the classrooms.

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