

Acalanes High School • Bentley School • Burton Valley • Camino Pablo • Campolindo • Contra Costa Jewish Day School • Del Rey • Donald L. Rheem • Glorietta • Happy Valley • Joaquin Moraga

# Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Academy • Orinda Intermediate • Saklan Valley School • Sleepy Hollow • Springhill • Stanley Middle • St. Perpetua School • Wagner Ranch

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## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**Acalanes Union**  
 High School District  
 Board Room AUHSD Office  
 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette  
 TONIGHT: Wednesday, February 2, 7:30pm  
 Next: Wednesday, February 16, 7:30pm

**Lafayette School District**  
 LAFSD Office  
 3477 School Street, Lafayette  
 Wednesday, February 9, 7pm

**Orinda Union School District**  
 OUSD Office  
 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda  
 Monday, February 14, 4pm

**Moraga School District**  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate  
 School Auditorium  
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
 Tuesday, February 8, at 7:30pm

Registration for Orinda students entering Kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year will take place February 7-10; in Moraga, registration will be March 3-4.

**Orinda – February 7-10 from 9am-1pm at these schools:**

**Del Rey Elementary**  
 25 El Camino Moraga, 258-3099

**Glorietta Elementary**  
 15 Martha Road, 254-8770

**Sleepy Hollow Elementary**  
 20 Washington Lane, 254-8711

**Wagner Ranch Elementary**  
 350 Camino Pablo, 258-0016

Information regarding Orinda registration requirements is available at [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).

**Moraga – March 3-4 at these schools and times:**

**Camino Pablo Elementary**  
 9-11:45am, and 1:15-3:00pm  
 1111 Camino Pablo, 376-4435

**Los Perales Elementary**  
 9am-2pm  
 22 Wakefield Drive, 631-0105

**Rheem Elementary**  
 9am-2pm  
 90 Laird Drive, 376-4441

Information regarding Moraga registration requirements is available at [www.moraga.k12.ca.us](http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us).

## Listen to the Music!



The Campolindo High School Orchestra

Photo provided

The excitement is building among the students of the Campolindo Orchestra who are looking forward to their upcoming performance tour to Beijing, China, this April. Lamorindans will have a chance to share in the fun and to hear the program the Orchestra will perform on the tour at a special benefit concert on February 24th.

The Orchestra will perform

Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring and J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, with special arrangements of crossover pieces by guest artist Jeremy Cohen, an award winning, Grammy nominated violinist. Internationally recognized author and musician Barry Green will lead The Green Man Group Bass Ensemble during a special intermission. Cohen and Green

are frequent visitors to the orchestra during the school year.

The suggested donation of \$10 helps the orchestra with its tour fundraising. Benstein says the China tour is, "A chance of a lifetime for our young musicians. The students have the opportunity to share the universal art of music with a foreign audience, bringing some uniquely American music to the Chinese."

But this trip is about more than performing in a different country. According to Benstein the young musicians, "Will have the opportunity to combine with a Chinese Youth Orchestra and perform together. Bridging the cultural and political differences and uniting with the sheer force and beauty of music. Additionally we all take the responsibility of representing our instrumental program, our school, community, state and nation in an outstanding manner."

L. Borrowman

**Campolindo Orchestra Benefit Performance**  
 February 24th, 7:30PM  
 Campolindo Performing Arts Center 300 Moraga Road, Moraga  
 Suggested donation \$10

## The University of California Changes the Way It Evaluates Students

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

The University of California announced some policy and admission requirement changes for students applying next year and beyond. These modifications should not change the way our students prepare for college. All college admissions offices are looking for bright and diverse students. Students should work hard in school and actively explore and demonstrate their interests both in and outside of the school environment. Although academic strength is important, every college in the country tries each year to build a well-rounded freshman class that includes budding scientists, talented musicians and athletes, community-minded individuals as well as students hailing from all parts of the nation and the world.

Combined with some old misconceptions that persist around high school corridors, the changes to UC admission requirements can be somewhat confusing. In this article I will clarify the updated UC admission requirements and emphasize how they affect students in our community.

### Students Who Are Entitled to Comprehensive Review

All California high school seniors who fulfill 3 basic requirements will be entitled to a comprehensive review of their applications at each UC campus to which they apply. These requirements are:

- Complete 15 UC-required college-preparatory courses (the "a-g" courses) with 11 of these completed prior to the start of 12th grade. Courses taken in summer after junior year will be considered as part of the application.
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better (based on a fully weighted academic GPA in these courses)
- Submit scores from the ACT with Writing or the SAT Reasoning Test

In essence this policy means that all students who meet these 3 eligibility requirements will have their applications reviewed comprehensively by the UC campuses to which they apply and these students will compete with everyone

else for available seats. A comprehensive review means that students' academic and personal accomplishments will be assessed as well as the educational contexts in which they achieved them.

### Students Who Receive Guaranteed Admission

Among these applicants two groups of students will be guaranteed admission. Students who are in the top 9 percent of their graduating class or in the top 9 percent of all high school graduates (based on a fully weighted academic GPA) will be guaranteed a place at one of the UC campuses, although not specifically to their first choice school. This is a substantial change in guaranteed admissions (from the original 4 percent) and allows students in all high schools to focus on learning and doing well. It is intended to level the playing field and give more California students a greater opportunity to receive an offer of admission to a UC campus.

### UC Drops SAT Subject Test Requirement

The UC used to require scores from the SAT or ACT as well as two SAT Subject Tests from different disciplines. The SAT Subject Tests are intensive one hour exams that test a student's proficiency in a specific content area, such as history, biology or mathematics. The UC still requires students to take the SAT or ACT with Writing, but it has eliminated the Subject Test requirement starting with students applying for fall 2012 admission.

Although our students are not required to take and submit scores from SAT Subject Tests, they can still choose to submit Subject Test scores for consideration as part of the application. It is important to know that the UC may still recommend one or more Subject Tests for certain majors. For example, students who want to major in engineering may need to take the SAT Subject Test in math to demonstrate proficiency. Those who apply should carefully check requirements and recommendations for each major.

Students in our community often take two or even three SAT

Subject Tests in different disciplines. This prepares them for competitive college admissions to both the UC and many other selective universities. Although some colleges have reduced or eliminated Subject Test requirements, many selective schools still require or strongly recommend them. For example, Georgetown University strongly recommends three Subject Tests and MIT requires two.

One reason the UC system eliminated the SAT Subject Test requirement is because studies indicate that students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are less likely to take SAT Subject Tests. The UC decided not to hamper applications from these students. That does not change the fact that SAT Subject Test scores give schools another objective way to make academic assessments. If a student attends a high school where relevant coursework is available (e.g. AP and honors classes in subject areas covered by SAT Subject tests) and the student has the resources (e.g., time, motivation, money) to prepare for and take the exams, good scores will add value to the college application.

For more detailed information on undergraduate admission requirements visit <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions> and check under freshman admission.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is an educational consultant and certified college admissions advisor. Her goal is to help students and their families understand the admissions process, research college and career options, create a customized college list and submit a strong and cohesive application. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC, and HECA and earned a certification in College Admissions and Career Planning from University of California at Berkeley. Contact her at (925) 891-4491 or [elizabeth@doingcollege.com](mailto:elizabeth@doingcollege.com).

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- Modern and Connected Orinda's Award Winning Homes
- Moraga Police Blotter
- Lafayette Police Blotter
- OIS Art Teacher Trains Winning Artists

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## Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

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**Publishers/Owners:** Andy Scheck; [andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com), phone 925-330-7916  
 Wendy Wuertth-Scheck; [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Editor:** Lee Borrowman; [lee@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:lee@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Advertising:** Wendy Wuertth-Scheck; 925-377-0977, [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Staff Writers:** Sophie Braccini; [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Cathy Tyson; [cathy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Andrea A. Firth; [andrea@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andrea@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Sports Editor: Caitlin Graveson

**Contributing Writers:** Dean Okamura, Cynthia Brian, Conrad Bassett, Susie Iventosch, Moya Stone, Roslynn Aragonas Stenzel, Lucy Amaral, Alex Crook, Bryant West, Cathy Dausman

**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Doug Kohen, Jordan Fong, Ohlen Alexander  
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## Lafayette Parcel Tax for Schools on May Ballot

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She said that schools are not being adequately funded by the state, but the District still needs to provide a quality education that parents expect.

Not only are severe cuts coming from Sacramento, but there is a timing issue that exacerbates the problem. According to School Services, an organization that advises school districts, there will be a \$330 per pupil cut, which roughly equals \$1 million District-wide. This is in addition to \$2 million that has been cut over the last two years. Required notification only complicates the dilemma. The Lafayette School District is required to notify teachers by March 15 if there is the possibility of a layoff, and yet a final state budget is not anticipated

until June. How can the District know if they will have money to pay teachers if they have no idea what the budget will be?

At a recent meeting addressing the Lafayette Elementary school PTA, District Superintendent Dr. Fred Brill said, "The budget is very unsatisfying for a number of reasons - there is extra ordinary uncertainty."

"I take an incremental approach - we want to protect core systems to keep a program of the highest quality." With 89% of budget going to personnel costs, with continued cuts, teachers and aides will feel the brunt of the budget ax. There have already been cuts to custodial services and school

maintenance; teachers have taken two furlough days and administrators took three furlough days.

Last week, Brill explained that the problem is the state budget is based on a lot of questionable assumptions that may or may not pan out. "A parcel tax gives us revenue that can't be taken away by the state."

As California faces a \$25.6 billion budget deficit over the next year and a half, it's clear that something has to give. Just last week in a poll by the Public Policy Institute of California, a non-profit non-partisan think tank, 71% of likely voters responded that they were willing to pay higher taxes to support kindergarten through 12th grade education.