

Campaign for Science Labs at Burbank Talking Points and Q&A

The **Science program is an integral part of our secondary curriculum at Burbank**. In the middle school years, all students study Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre (SVT) program, which includes biology, geology and Sciences Physiques – Chimie (physics and chemistry), in the context of the mandated French government curriculum. In high school, students study science courses in both the French Bac and IB Diploma programs. The HS curriculum, depending on the track, includes Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geology, and Environmental system at Standard and Higher levels.

Burbank is now in its fifth year of operations. Our student numbers have grown in middle school and high school. In 2018, we are graduating 34 seniors. Our graduating class of 2019 will be almost 50 strong - LILA's largest ever! Our science lab facilities are no longer sufficient, we must bring a new lab online in 2018 in order to meet the demand for scheduled lab classes across grades 6-12.

In order to provide state-of-the-art science facilities at Burbank, we are going to add two science labs and a prep room for the start of the 2018-2019 school year, as well as complete upgrades to the one existing science lab and storage room for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

In the context of our new science standards, which focus more on scientific practices and skills, reflecting both the US recommendations of the National Academies for STEM Education (NGSS) and the new French national science curriculum, these facilities will meet the needs of the general science classes in the middle school while also catering to the more specialized science courses in the high school in both the FB and the IB.

- At the same time, the board is embarking on an ambitious project to create a **master plan for LILA's High School**, with the future in mind. The master plan will reflect the strategy for growth that is being defined through the strategic plan, as well as the facilities needs that will come from it.

The master plan will be designed over the next few years. This is an exciting time for LILA, and the team will go through an organized and thoughtful process before unveiling the plan.

- **The labs are only a first step of the future master plan**

- A scope, plans and budget have been drafted for the labs project. It comprises **two phases**: the first one includes all steps to create the two new labs by reconfiguring two classrooms, as well as a small prep room; the second one is the upgrade of the existing lab (for back-to-school 2019)

- At this point, we're focusing on the **first phase**. We are fundraising for the construction: we have a goal of **raising \$250K by April 2018, for an overall budget of \$295K**. If we don't get enough funds, the scope might be reduced and we would put in some of our reserves. We are fundraising for the full \$250,000.

1. Why is the cost so high? How realistic is the budget and what about costs overruns?

A: The budget includes new walls, new doors, new windows, new plumbing, some HVAC work, and equipment as well as design and permit costs. We do not have a firm construction bid at this stage. The construction cost is an estimate, as the architects have not done a costing for this project yet. We are finalizing the cost estimates.

Any cost overruns will need to be absorbed by our operating budget as we need to deliver these rooms next year to deliver our program. If we can't raise the money, we can look at less expensive lab furniture if we need to cut costs. This will be determined as we see how much is raised.

2. Are the facilities paid for permanent, or a temporary step in a larger plan?

A: Labs will be permanent and will work with our master plan.

3. Will there be any disruption to classes, because of the construction work?

A: We will try to start construction in late April or early May once the IB exams are finished. This will eliminate the need for a temporary trailer as we will reschedule room 10 to other classrooms to accommodate our construction needs.

4. Does the lack of existing state-of-the-art labs have a negative impact on our academic results?

A: No, our results in the sciences have been consistently strong, especially in the FB. The improved facilities are all about improving the quality and environment of the learning experience for students, especially in the conducting of experiments.

5. I'm a 6th/7th grade parent, will this benefit my children?

A: Yes, see above on curriculum.

6. How will the new science labs enhance the curriculum?

A: Updating our science facilities and equipment will allow our pedagogical team to fully adapt class practices to our new science standards. Our emphasis is now on science practices and skills, which require more project-based (science investigation, research-oriented assignment), experimental and hands-on activities. Having state of the art workstations for students with access to water and power and enough room to manipulate, and sufficient storage for science equipment and chemicals will really make a difference in delivering our modernized curriculum.



7. What will the new labs mean for the students?

A: Besides the enhancements to the curriculum and the ability to do more extensive project-based learning, students will have more space to work and have greater opportunities to work collaboratively. There will be fewer students at each station and all students will be engaged at all times.

8. How can I donate to the project? Can I make a pledge and pay it over time?

A: Donations can be made in multiple ways

By Pledge: All pledge payments need to be fulfilled by June 30, 2018.

By Credit Card Online: <https://lilaschool.ejoinme.org/capitalcampaign>

By Stock of Wire Transfer: Contact Michele Khateri

By Check (made payable to "LILA") mailed to:

International School of Los Angeles

Attn: Michele Wray Khateri

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