

# Highlights Across Campus Met with Smiles

*Over the past three months, improvements have continued throughout campus, providing students with new air conditioning systems in C and D buildings, as well as renovations to the Large Gym, Small Gym and outdoor courts.*



MOOR photos by JOYCE TSUI  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEREMY INFRANCA

## Absence of Priority Processing Poses Inconvenience

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Staff Writer

In the past, standing under the sun in lines for priority processing meant that a new school year was starting. It allowed students to turn in paperwork and address their schedule conflicts with counselors on a grade priority basis before school began. However, priority processing did not take place this year. Most of the paperwork was dealt with before summer break and dealing with students' schedules became a delayed task.

During the first week of school, the Guidance Office was crowded with students carrying various complaints, mostly consisting of the need to correct their sched-

ules. Some students saw the absence of priority processing to be the cause of their discontent.

"Scheduling this year was completely off; [it] seems [like] the counselors just randomly picked classes for everyone," senior Hector Escobar said.

Common problems regarding schedules included getting or dropping an honors or Advanced Placement (AP) class, or another course a student did not want.

"It's horrible because the people who need their classes [...] are not getting them," junior Bianca Nguyen said.

The administration is also facing continuing dilemmas. For one thing, financial hardships still remain, causing uncertainty for certain programs and courses.

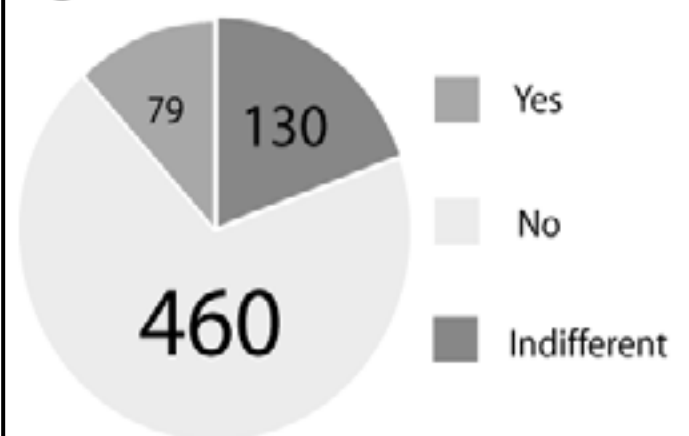
In addition to the student body decrease from 3040 to around 2800 students, nine faculty members were eliminated from staff.

The decrease in faculty poses yet another problem on whether some classes may remain. Usually, teachers are provided a master schedule of all the courses they are able to provide, but administration was unable to guarantee students earlier decisions on class changes.

A new feature has appeared on the PowerSchool family portal that allows students to request an AP course change. About 80 percent of requests were approved online.

"I do not feel that priority processing is necessary if you're fine with your schedule," senior Megan Mungcal said.

Did having no priority processing in the summer prove to be well-organized?



## AHS Alumnus Signs on with Boston Red Sox

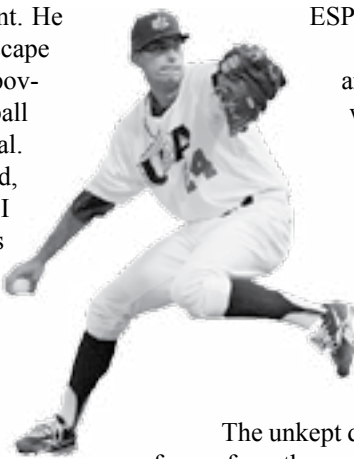
**ELLEN LI**  
News Editor

On Aug. 15, AHS alumnus and baseball player Noe Ramirez signed with the Boston Red Sox. Ramirez, who was their fourth-round selection in 2011, received a draft bonus of \$625,000 due to his superior talent, his college track record and his determination. However, prospects were not always so optimistic for Ramirez, who came from humble beginnings.

Ramirez and his five siblings were raised by his father in East Los Angeles where violence and

delinquency was rampant. He had always sought to escape the struggle of living in poverty; this love for baseball helped him reach his goal.

"One time, Noe said, 'Dad, when I grow up I want to show that there's people that can come out of here and do good things.' He always says he owes his success to his family [...], but really, above all, it was baseball that kept him off the streets," Noe's father, Rafael Ramirez, said in an



The unkept diamond was a far cry from the nearby Dodgers Stadium, but that did not dissuade Ramirez's love for the sport.

"My Pops was the one who

ESPN interview.

Ramirez and his son would spend countless afternoons practicing at Hazard Park, which is renowned for its gangs.

tossed me my first baseball [when I was around three years old]. [...] I thought baseball was the greatest thing ever," Ramirez said in an interview with Baseball Historian.

Despite his many hardships, Ramirez was not deterred from pursuing his dream. He would go on to play baseball for AHS before playing for Cal State Fullerton on an athletic scholarship.

"I am fortunate to [have coached] not only Noe, but his brothers as well," baseball Coach Steve Gewecke said. "[Not only does] Noe have a lot of talent, but he [is] also a great teammate [with] tremendous charac-

ter, which is more important."

Despite his achievements, Ramirez remains down-to-earth about his success. He and his eldest sibling have talked about starting a charity where they grew up in order to benefit the children in the neighborhood.

"I just want to be known for the right reasons," Ramirez said in an ESPN interview. "I've never had it easy. I understand what many people are going through. I just want to help out, honestly. That's what I want to be known for."

Photo courtesy of  
usafuturewatch