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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Holy Martyrs Armenian Elementary & Ferrahian High School “HMAEFHS” was founded in Encino, California in 1964. The historic founding of the school marked the establishment of the first Armenian-American educational institution in the United States.

The establishment of a bilingual Armenian day school was one of the many goals of the Armenian-American community during the first half of the 20th century. The first real opportunity for the realization of this goal occurred in the early 1950s, when Attorney Mateos Ferrahian bequeathed \$300,000 toward the establishment of an Armenian/English bilingual high school. Several years later, Mr. Gabriel Injejikian, an educator, in cooperation with the church board of the Encino-based Holy Martyrs Armenian Church, took the necessary steps to start a high school in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles County. A single family home adjacent to the church was purchased and converted to a school. The instructions started in the fall of 1964 with 12 students in grades 7 and 8.

The school continued to grow with the addition of one high school grade level each year. A decade later, the governing body of the school began construction of the main campus, which was completed in three phases from 1974 to 1980. The school further expanded in 1978 with the addition of the elementary and kindergarten sections. In 1989 an additional campus was acquired in the North Hills region of the San Fernando Valley. Since then, the school is located on two campuses, the high school, the middle school, and the main offices are located in Encino and the Kindergarten through elementary school is located in North Hills.

Over the years, the school has grown substantially, both physically and academically and enjoys the status of a reputable learning institution. In the 2007-2008 school year, student enrollment reached its peak, at 751 students including the 140 students in the preschool. This school year 2009-2010, the student body in grades K-12 counts 531 plus 149 students in the preschool.

Being under the auspices of the Holy Martyrs Armenian Church, the school shares the religious and the national values cherished by the Armenian Apostolic Church of America. Organizationally, the school is part of the Western Prelacy Armenian Schools, thereby shares and has incorporated the terms of the Mission Statement of this entity into the school’s Expected Schoolwide Learning Results “ESLRS.” In effect, the Mission Statement aspires to provide bilingual education to our students and promotes the Armenian cultural and national values within the framework of good U.S. citizenship and universal human values.

The Western Prelacy schools are comprised of three K-12 and three K-8 schools, as well as seven preschools. These schools are governed by the Prelacy Board of Regents, headquartered in Glendale, California.

Holy Martyrs Cabayan Elementary & Ferrahian High School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The school earned its most recent six-year accreditation in spring, 2007. Our Pre-School is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs (NAECP).

Holy Martyrs Cabayan Elementary & Ferrahian High School admits students without regard to race, color, creed, ethnic origin, or religious affiliation.

EXPECTED SCHOOL-WIDE LEARNING RESULTS

(June 2007 - WASC)

Holy Martyrs Armenian Elementary & Ferrahian High School will prepare its graduates to be:

1. CRITICAL THINKERS AND PROBLEM-SOLVERS WHO

- a. Can gather, evaluate, and synthesize information from diverse sources.
- b. Utilize information-processing skills to understand complex concepts and solve various problems.
- c. Apply problem-solving skills to real-life situations.
- d. Use technology effectively and responsibly to enhance problem-solving skills.

2. LIFE-LONG LEARNERS WHO

- a. Demonstrate the desire to pursue higher education.
- b. Develop and practice academic skills and tools to acquire college education.
- c. Comprehend and appreciate that education is an on-going process.

3. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS WHO

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in written and oral English language skills.
- b. Develop and demonstrate effective communication skills.
- c. Use technology effectively and responsibly to enhance communication skills.

4. INDIVIDUALS EMPOWERED IN ARMENIAN CULTURE WHO

- a. Understand and appreciate the Armenian cultural heritage.
- b. Acquire and apply written and oral communication skills in Armenian language and develop an appreciation of the Armenian literature and history.
- c. Develop pride and determination to pursue the aspirations of the Armenian people.
- d. Understand and respect the cultural diversity of the society in which they live.
- e. Acknowledge and respect the dignity of every individual human being.

5. RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS WHO

- a. Live with moral courage, integrity, and focused purpose.
- b. Contribute to the community and to the general society in which they live.
- c. Work collaboratively while appreciating individuality.
- d. Take responsibility of their personal health and wellness.
- e. Understand and appreciate the American cultural heritage and history.
- f. Appreciate and contribute to the well being of the global environment.

WASC ACTION PLAN

Growth Area Action Plan # 1

The school will plan and execute a strategy in order to increase support services to serve and meet the needs of all students.

Growth Area Action Plan # 2

The Armenian Language Department will engage in a process of enhancing the Armenian language curriculum and instruction incorporating audio visuals and hands-on experiences. The action plan also calls to emphasize on different teaching modalities, and oral and written communication skills.

Growth Area Action Plan # 3

The school will develop a process to integrate technology into instruction, learning, and assessment.

Growth Area Action Plan # 4

The school will strengthen the instructional advocacy to provide ongoing advisement to instructional personnel to assess efficiency, and improve the broader schoolwide goals and student learning outcomes.

Growth Area Action Plan # 5

The school will research and plan a facilities' expansion project with the vision of enhancing the student learning environment and accommodating for a projected 5% per year student population increase in the next six to twelve years.

SCHOOL TIMELINE

May 1955	Mateos Ferrahian passes away. In his will Mr. Ferrahian has allotted his house as gift to the first Armenian High School in the U.S.A. Mr. Mateos Ferrahian's remains are kept at Rosdel Cemetry, 1831 W. Washington Bl., Los Angeles, CA 90007
October 1960	Holy Martyrs Church property is purchased; \$80,000 donation is made by Mrs. Satenig Arakelian.
July 17, 1964	Holy Martyrs Church Board decides to establish an Armenian day school on the church premises.
September 14, 1964	Holy Martyrs Armenian High School opens its doors with 12 students and Mr. Gabriel Inejikian Principal.
October 25, 1964	Official opening of the school. In attendance, Archbishop Hrant Khachatourian (Cilicia See).
January 1965	The first school periodical "Haghtanag" is published with 15,000 prints distributed throughout the USA. The official annual school publication bears the name "Hagtanag" and thereafter the name of the school yearbook.
June 12, 1965	First Dinner-Dance is organized and held at Statler Hilton in Los Angeles.
August 1965	Mr. Gabriel Inejikian travels to sixteen Midwestern, Eastern, and Canadian cities to organize support committees for the school.
September 13, 1965	School opens for the second year with 43 students enrolled.
November 12, 1965	The Second Annual Founders Day. Mr. Arshag Dickranian, the executor of Mateos Ferrahian's will, presents a draft check for \$235,000 to Archbishop Hrant Khachatourian, who in turn renames the school Holy Martyrs Ferrahian High School. Subsequently, a fund is established the interest of which is allocated for the school needs. In 1969, two-thirds of the fund is allotted to Ferrahian School and one-third to Mesrobian School in Montebello.
February 1, 1966	Second semester starts with 61 enrolled students.
May 21, 1967	The Third Annual Founder's Day. The school athletic field is dedicated to Dr. Suren Saroyan.
1967-1968	The first issue of the student newspaper "Eagle" is published.
January 1968	The Board of Trustees of Holy Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church turn over the responsibility of governing Holy Martyrs Ferrahian Armenian High School to a newly-appointed Board of Governors with Dr. Suren Saroyan as President, Mr. Arshag Dickranian as the Honorary President, and Mrs. Lillie Merrigian as Secretary. From then on Dr. Saroyan served on the school governing board as its president till 1980.
August 1968	The 1967-1968 school year ends with an income of \$57,278.21 and \$54,406.86 in expenses. The projected budget for academic year 1968-1969 is set at \$75,000.
1968-1969	"Armens" the first boys' basketball and the first girls' cheerleader teams are established.
April 22, 1969	Khoren Catholicos visits Ferrahian School.
June 1969	The first high school commencement. Seven students graduate.
1969-1973	The school acquires adjacent properties through the Ferrahian fund

	<p>as follows: 1969 - 1.5 acre of land to the north of the school for \$58,000 1970 – A house for \$39,000 1973 - A property to the east of the school for \$42,000. Total estate: 3.5 acres.</p>
August 26, 1974	Groundbreaking of the construction of two-floor first wing (eastern wing) of the building with four classrooms, a hall and a kitchen, with Vahram Jebejian as the architect, Mark Noorigian as the building supervisor. The Chairman of the Building Finance and Construction Committees then was Armen Muger.
May 23, 1976	Dedication of the east wing and the “Mihrtad Dickranian Hall.” A \$25,000 donation is made by Mr. Arshag Dickranian.
1977-1978	The construction of the southern wing of the new building is completed with the addition of classrooms and a library.
September 11, 1978	The new library is dedicated to John Garabedian
September 19, 1978	The school has 200 enrolled students with 10 full time and 20 part time faculty members.
1978-1979	The elementary and the kindergarten sections are established. The school is renamed: Holy Martyrs Armenian Elementary and Ferrahian High School.
1979-1980	The construction of the western and northern wings of the building is completed. A gymnasium/hall is erected in the center of the building. The hall is dedicated in memory of Arzouman Avedissian. A \$100,000 donation is made by Kevork Arzoumanian.
1981	Holy Martyrs Church Board assumes the responsibility of governing the school, which was led earlier by the school Governing Body.
November 14, 1984	His Holiness Karekin II visits Ferrahian on the school’s 20 th Anniversary. His Holiness had visited Ferrahian twice earlier on November 12, 1980 and on June 20, 1988.
December 5, 1987	Mortgage burning ceremony is held in Avedissian Hall.
1988	The school acquires an additional campus of approximately four acres in North Hills for \$2,000,000.
Summer 1989	The new campus undergoes major renovations costing \$500,000.
October 23, 1989	Grades 10, 11, and 12 relocate to the new campus.
Summer 1990	Principal Gabriel Injejikian resigns after 26 years of service.
1990	On the occasion of the 25 th Anniversary of the school, the school history, collated in 54-page volume is published in Armenian language, authored by Anahid Meymarian
September 1990	Mr. Vartkes Ghazarian is appointed Principal. He serves for three years from 1990 through 1993 with Mr. Levon Kasparian as Vice Principal.
1990-1991	Grades K-4 are transferred to North Hills Campus and grades 10-12 relocate back to Encino Campus.
1990-1991	For the first time the school participates in Model UN and DWP Science Quiz Bowl -- extracurricular activities
February 14, 1991	The pre-school classrooms are reorganized as a separate but as an integral part of the school.
April 19, 1991	A school emblem is adopted; designed by Mher Davitian and funded by Mr. and Mrs. Koko Deukmejian.
April 28, 1991	The Preschool is officially named: “Holy Martyrs ARS Pre-school

	and Kindergarten” with the ARS Regional Executive allocating \$100,000 for the pre-school.
1991-1992	WASC accreditation process starts.
September 1993	Mr. Levon Kasparian is appointed Principal of the school. He serves for four years from 1993 to 1997 and Mr. Paul Mooradian being the Vice Principal.
1994-1995	Two-year olds’ classroom starts at the Preschool.
1994	For the first time the school participates in private schools’ Academic Decathlon.
June 1995	The school is WASC accredited for six years with a midterm review visit.
1998	Articles and press releases printed in the Armenian press about the school from 1964 to 1988 are compiled by Mr. Kourken Khanjian and are published in a 663-page volume. This publication had limited distribution.
September 1997	Dr. Marzbed Margossian is appointed Principal of the school. He serves for four years from 1997 to 2001 with the Vice-Principal being Mr. Vartkes Nalbandian.
June 2000	The school is WASC accredited for six years with midterm report.
August 2001	Mr. John Kossakian is appointed as Principal with Mr. Vartkes Nalbandian continuing in his position as Vice-Principal.
September 2001	The construction of the 5000 sq. ft. administrative building is completed. The new building houses the school administration, the Church Board offices, and the offices of cultural, youth, and relief groups. Mr. & Mrs. Osko and Yeran Karaghossian donate \$150,000 toward the construction of the building.
	At an official opening the building is named “Osko and Yeran Karaghossian Building”.
May-June 2004	On the occasion of the school’s 40 th Anniversary a banquet and a public gathering is organized. A revised and an updated history of Ferrahian School is published (Armenian language, 107 pages); authored by Anahid Meymarian.
June 12, 2004	40 th anniversary banquet in Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel. School mortgage is lowered to \$700,000.
Summer 2005	Major renovations take place at the North Hills Campus with the addition of fourteen mobile classrooms for grades K through 5, the library and a computer lab. Mrs. Ashkhen Pilavjian donates \$250,000 toward this renovation project.
January 13, 2006	At the official opening of the renovated campus, the Preschool is renamed “Holy Martyrs A.R.S. Ashkhen Pilavjian Pre-school”.
June 2007	The school is WASC accredited for six years with midterm visit.
June 2010	WASC midterm visit states the school’s successful performance in all aspects of the Action Plans.