



CALIFORNIA SCHOOL TO WATCH VISITOR'S GUIDE



La Paz Intermediate School



Designated in 2011, Re-Designated in 2014, 2017

La Paz Intermediate School • Saddleback Valley Unified School District • Orange County • Jean Walker, Principal • 25151 Pradera Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • Tel (949) 830-1720, Fax (949) 830-3320

2011 School Statistics

(Sources: 2009 API Growth Report; 2010 AYP Report)

Community: Mid-size city
Enrollment: 923
Grade Levels: 7 & 8
School Schedule: 6 period day, with 30 minute tutorial and rotating schedule, early release Monday for staff collaboration

Student Demographics

- 26% Hispanic
- 58% White
- 1% African American
- 5% Two or more
- 3% Filipino
- 7% Asian
- 0% Pacific Islander

- 20% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 10% English Learners

2009 Base: 885
2010 Growth: 891 (up 6 points since 2009)
2010 AYP: Met 4 of 4 criteria

Visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/index.asp> to

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Cohesive curricular, instructional, and assessment program for all students based on the Common Core standards and Next Generation Science Standards
- Schoolwide literacy in all courses using the following practices: sentence starters for academic conversations, Socratic seminars, common writing rubric across disciplines, Close reading, Thinking Maps, AVID strategies, Kagan cooperative structures, and a multifaceted Tier II academic vocabulary program
- Infusion of one to one Chromebooks and google classroom use in all core subject areas and physical education/wellness classes.
- S.T.E.M. electives, both yearlong and semester, based on the Project Lead the Way model.

Developmental Responsiveness

- Interdisciplinary teams in the seventh grade as well as common subject-area preps for English, math, history, and science teachers at both grade levels contributing to a consistent and cohesive curricular and instructional program for middle school students.
- Cohesive middle school culture and climate through a fully developed school wide PBIS program as well as a year round WEB program which connects with student-led lunch activities, night time social events and classroom lessons.

Social Equity

- Inclusive Honors Program at La Paz. Seventh grade honors is an integrated program where students in heterogeneous core classes tackle in-depth assignments and projects related to the subject. Students successful in seventh grade honors have the option of selecting traditional honors courses for eighth grade. Students may also enroll in a summer “Bridge to Algebra” course to prepare for the eighth-grade honors algebra program.
- Interventions for students in need of additional support are offered within the school day during the Tutorial class following lunch, the math and English block classes and the Read 180 block. Students are re-grouped for additional support on essential learnings as needed. After the school day students may access the Homework Club, and/or the STEM program. Tutorial class also provides Honors Program students time to work together on projects.
- Intervention Specialist who teaches an elective, “Steps for Success”, and coordinates with core teachers and parents to assure that students are mastering essential standards. Through this process, students often have extended time in key subjects as well as individualized and small group assistance.

Organizational Support

- Tutorial within the school day
- Common subject alike teacher lesson preparation periods
- Early student release Mondays (teachers work together on school wide goals in subject alike, community and department groups.
- Harvard Instructional Rounds Process