



# SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## VISITOR'S GUIDE



### Dr. Dixie Melillo Middle School



### Designated in 2017

- Dr. Dixie Melillo Middle School
- Pasadena ISD, Harris County
  - Diane Wheeler, Principal
  - 9220 Hughes Rd, Houston, TX 77089
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#### School Web Sites:

- <http://melillo.pasadenaisd.org>
- <http://www.facebook.com/MelilloMS>

### 2015 - 2016 School Statistics

(Source: 2015-16 Texas School Report Card)

Community: SouthBelt Area of Southeast Houston  
 Enrollment: 643  
 Grade Levels: 05, 06  
 School Schedule: August - June

#### Student Demographics

- 12.6 % African American
- 65.6 % Hispanic
- 10.4 % White
- 0.3 % American Indian
- 8.7 % Asian
- 0.0 % Pacific Islander
- 2.3 % Two or More Races
- 56.1 % Economically Disadvantaged
- 9.5 % English Language Learners
- 10.1 % Special Education

#### Distinction Designations:

- Reading/ELA
- Mathematics
- Top 25% Student Progress
- Top 25% Closing Perform Gaps
- Postsecondary Readiness

(Visit <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/src/> to view this school's data for prior years.)

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Professional Learning Communities for academic and grade level departments for planning, data disaggregation, deconstructing learning standards (Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills – TEKS)
- Enrichment period for all students, every day, in which students practice on Math & Reading high frequency state assessed standards and, when mastered, will work on high-level enrichment activities or projects
- Targeted instruction based on common assessment data through Enrichment & Intervention classes
- Use of a variety of instructional best practices throughout all classes such as the 7 Steps to a Language Rich Interactive Classroom, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Sheltered Instruction, Specifically Designed Instruction (SDI), and Blended Learning
- Special programs (SPED, 504, Title One) pull-out support through Enrichment period instead of during core or elective class
- Class sets of computer laptops in most core classroom and 3 computer labs for the opportunity to incorporate meaningful student use of technology in instructional lessons

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## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Instilling in our students our school's Guidelines for Success "Hearts That Care; Hands That Serve; and Minds That Think" on a daily basis during morning broadcast announcements, when addressing students' academic and behavioral expectations, and during school family assemblies
- Implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports programs throughout the school such as Safe & Civil School and Conscious Discipline
- Providing opportunities for guidance lessons during Melillo Pride Day every other Friday in which students learn about character education, goal setting, growth mindset, wellness, and community service
- Providing students opportunities to increase their college awareness through activities such as College Day on the first Friday of the month in which college fight songs are played during transition time and students & staff wear their favorite college shirts, a trip to a local university such as University of Houston through the Kids2College program, and incorporating a section in the monthly newsletter regarding college awareness
- FUN-damental Fridays allows a 60 minute period in which all students participate in a club during the regular school day. Teachers choose to sponsor a club of their own and students choose which club to participate. This allows for students and teachers to develop relationships outside of an academic setting.
- Involving the campus community in service oriented fundraisers such as Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Drive, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients, and the SouthBelt Food & Toy Drive
- Providing family and community events on a regular basis such as our Spring Carnival, Academic Family Night, Counselor Chats, Jingle Bell Jog, Family Movie Nights, and Technology Night
- Supporting district health initiatives for students and staff through participation of monthly challenges; Recipient of the silver level distinction for the Pasadena ISD Wellness Award in 2015-2016
- Participating in the district's HOSTS Program (Helping One Student To Succeed) in which 6<sup>th</sup> grade students travel to a feeder elementary school to read to individual students on a weekly basis

## **Social Equity**

- Students are on teams of 4 core teachers and flow to each teacher as a homeroom, allowing the concept of a school and classroom family to be established
- All students (except self-contained students with Autism) are enrolled in all general education classes to be exposed to the general curriculum on a daily basis
- All students are provided Enrichment class to work on instructional standards to continue student growth whether through intervention or enrichment activities
- Students are provided the instructional supports as required in their identified programs through instructional support facilitation and implementation of teacher professional development strategies specific to student learning program needs such as ELL, SPED, and 504
- All students are provided the opportunity to participate in clubs during the regular school day, instead of after school. Over 70% of our students are transported to school via bus and cannot stay after school for extracurricular activities.
- Providing academic and behavior incentives on a regular basis for attendance, grades, and citizenship

## **Organizational Support**

- Continuous support of staff through professional development by the campus and district
- Structured conference periods for staff to meet in their respective academic Professional Learning Communities. This includes the campus instructional specialists and general & special education staff
- Participating in Instructional Rounds to collect campus data on our area of instructional focus
- Developing a culture of high expectations and a safe, learning environment through discussions & planning by the administrative team, the Site Based Decision Making Committee, and weekly grade level meetings
- Hiring and retaining highly qualified staff and providing a mentor to all first year teachers