



School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Academic counseling and intervention starts the third week of school so no child is allowed to dig a hole so deep they cannot succeed. Administration works with staff to monitor, meet with, and support at-risk students.
- Teachers give opportunities for test and quiz corrections, essay re-writes, and second-chance learning
- Interventions are before, after, and during the school day, including lunchtime
- Best practices of teaching are learned, modeled, shared, and used in our classrooms
- Rubrics help students assess their own work—common benchmark assessments and common formative assessments are used for overall assessments. Departments collaborate on cross-curricular assignments
- Cooperative learning groups are seen in math stations, science lab teams, peer editing, group research project partnership and in physical education, small group skill work
- Interventions include: Drop-in and Mandatory After-School Tutorials/Academic Center

- Teachers collaborate weekly one hour during the day and three times per month after school with department, staff and leadership teams

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San Lorenzo Valley Middle School

Developmental Responsiveness

- Each student is assigned a WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leader when entering school and is mentored throughout the initial year; later s/he becomes a mentor for others
- Mental Health Counselor on site to support students in navigating social and emotional issues or concerns
- Electives include Band, Chorus, Drama, Art, Building and Engineering, Speech, Digital Arts, Life Skills, Spanish, Technology, Newspaper and Journalism
- Individualized parent education nights cover topics such as positive parenting, cyber safety and bullying.
- Many instructional modalities are used as well as making classroom management a priority. Best management practices are shared. Technology is a resource for teachers, but not a replacement or full-day teaching tool
- Students are encouraged to complete 30 hours of community service and are offered projects of school garden, river and road cleanups, Relay for Life, and school improvement, among others
- Co-curricular activities include after-school clubs, lunchtime intramural sports, exploratory program, community service opportunities, two major musical and drama productions each year, concert band and choir festivals, talent show, science fair, spelling bee and math contest

Social Equity

- Staff works with a common purpose for all students to improve toward proficiency through voluntary and mandatory tutorials, several intervention classes (which are fluid based on student proficiency and mastery), and set entrance and exit criteria
- Super Rosters and Kid Talk sessions at staff meetings, Adopt-a-Kid program help teachers know students
- Special Education and General Education are together in language arts and math courses through team-teaching. All RSP students are mainstreamed throughout the day
- Academic Support Classes provides students who need extra time to master concepts taught in core classes, as well as assist with organization, study skills, and work completion skills
- AVID 8th Grade Class to assist with students who may need extra support to be prepared for college
- Reading Support Classes serve students with and/or without IEPs
- ELD class serves our English Language Learners
- Directed Studies Classes give extra support for those students with IEPs
- Bring Your Own Device Program creates a one-to-one laptop situation for every students, as the school provides devices for students who cannot bring their own

Organizational Support

- Principal works with a Representative Council chosen by the staff to explore issues, discuss problems and brainstorm solutions to bring to the entire staff
- Administration monitors individual student progress to move students in and out of intervention
- Professional Learning Communities have been the target of persistent professional development: curriculum maps, and common assessments are used to analyze data, change practices, create interventions, and drive instruction
- Teachers are sharing results and working together to improve teaching
- The school partners with the feeder elementary school and the destination high school which allows for excellent communication between sites and transition programs, as well as the ability for middle grades students to serve as mentors and aides at the elementary school or take advanced courses in music, mathematics, and foreign language at the high school
- Partnering with local universities provides students opportunities to take field trips to local colleges
- Many outlets for parents and community members to give input and be involved in the conversation about the school and its direction including District Curriculum Council, School Site Council, Panther Club Parent Boosters, EL Family nights, AVID family meetings, GATE parent nights, Positive Parenting Classes, and College and Career nights