



CALIFORNIA SCHOOL TO WATCH VISITOR'S GUIDE



Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School



Designated in 2017

Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School
Lowell Joint School District, Los Angeles County
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2016-2017 School Statistics

Community: Whittier, Suburban (Los Angeles)
Enrollment: 785
Grade Levels: 7-8
School Schedule: Traditional Calendar

Student Demographics

- 65.23% Hispanic
- 28.19% White
- 2.27% African American
- .63% Filipino
- 3.03% Asian
- .50% Pacific Islander
- 31% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 8.1% English Learners
- 10.3% Students with Disabilities

2013 API: 875, school-wide (last reported rating)

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Rancho uses a credit system and must meet GPA and credit requirements. Students are offered academic intervention for credit retrieval.
- Academic Intervention, A.I. classes, are offered after school for credit make up.
- Learning objectives and additional learning targets are part of all classroom instruction.
- Honors courses are offered with open access for students
- Flex, our intervention during the school day, offers all students additional support and enrichment.
- PLC teams meet regularly to monitor academic success through common benchmarks and interim assessments.
- A *Tools and Strategies Handbook* was created by staff for school wide instruction in argument writing with common rubrics for interdisciplinary use.
- All departments focus on argument writing and citing textual evidence including ERWC units in ELA and DBQ in Social Studies.
- Professional development is continual at Rancho and weekly PLC meetings focus on student growth.
- Project Lead the Way is used as one of our STEM course offerings as well other additional STEM courses including Audio Engineering, Green Architecture, Robotics and Coding. Simulations, labs, and additional real world application lessons are part of instruction across all departments.
- Intervention classes in Math and ELA offer support to students. Our G-CAD lab offers applied construction to teach Algebra concepts, Read 180 supports struggling readers and English Learners.

- Through our Flex program, students are also offered enrichment opportunities once standards are met.
- Power Start and Power Finish, before and after school tutoring, are offered to help students achieve academic success.

Developmental Responsiveness

- Positive behavior is rewarded at Rancho. Our REACH program promotes good grades and good citizenship on campus with assemblies, rewards and recognition.
- Our academic counselor provides supports in the area of academics and social skills along with all emotional and social needs.
- Support staff includes our counselor, part-time nurse, part-time school psychologist and speech therapist, and instructional aides.
- Special Education students are rewarded for academic and behavior success through our motivational Fun Friday.
- Starbucks, Rancho-Starbuck tickets, are awarded for good deeds and drawings are held weekly.
- Pathway, a support class during the day, offers students intensive support with peer tutors for our at-risk students.
- Reach Circle, a teacher mentor program, provides year long after school mentor support for students by our caring staff. Reach Circle also gives students an opportunity to give back to the community through philanthropic activities.
- A myriad of activities including lunch time games, intramurals, competition teams, and electives offer students a chance to belong on campus. School spirit is high at Rancho.
- *Why Try*, a student motivation program, is offered after school by our counselor for those students identified as needing additional support.
- ASB and National Junior Honor Society along with service hours required through Social Studies foster community involvement and service.
- Parent Nights are offered quarterly to inform parents of current trends including social media, college entrance and drug prevention.
- 7th grade students begin the year with a day designed to transition them to junior high.
- Our parent portal keeps our parents informed about grades, activities and our school calendar. Quarterly parent conferences, automated phone messages, Remind 101 text messages, School Site Council, our active PTA and volunteer opportunities keep our parents involved on campus.
- Many co-curricular opportunities exist at Rancho-Starbuck including competitive drumline, Science Olympiad, Math Field Day, ASB sponsored events, Math & Science conference, after-school competitive sports, yearbook, tutoring, Jazz Band. Additional visual and performing arts opportunities exist for student involvement on campus.

Social Equity

- Honors classes in Math and Language Arts are available.
- An ELD support class is offered to our English Learners.
- Special Education students are provided additional daily support.
- Teacher leaders meet regularly and PLC meetings reflect the importance of collaboration on campus.
- All students have access to a wide range of elective and after school course offerings.
- All students have access to technology through use of computer labs, iPads, and Chromebooks.
- Responsibility, Effort, Attitude, Character and Honor, *REACH*, encourages and rewards good choices.
- Recognition of student achievement takes place regularly through Student of the Month, REACH assemblies, Top 100 and other awards.

Organizational Support

- School-wide goals are revisited regularly with input from all staff members.
- Leadership roles include technology, leadership team, department leads, data coaches, and an intervention coach.
- PLC meeting notes, regular staff meetings, bulleting updates and teams meetings create an environment of shared leadership.
- On-going professional development occurs in areas such as Common Core, technology, Visible Learning, NGSS, data decision making and argument writing.
- Our comprehensive intervention program developed through extensive contributions from all staff, observation of other programs and supports our belief that all students can learn at high levels.
- Articulation with local feeder schools, the community, local businesses and colleges has been especially focused on a grant received for our G-Cad construction program.
- Our music program features articulation with local colleges including instruction for our students from college music professors and trips to college campuses.
- Local businesses are sponsors of our REACH program.
- Parent orientation and student orientation days transition our 6th grade students to our campus.
- Our ASB prepares a welcome event each year for new students.