



CALIFORNIA SCHOOL TO WATCH VISITOR'S GUIDE



Rancho Milpitas Middle School



Designated in 2004

- Rancho Milpitas Middle School • Milpitas Unified School District • Santa Clara • Casey McMurray, Principal • 1915 Yellowstone Ave., Milpitas, CA 95035
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2017 School Statistics

(Sources: 2016 SARC; CDE)

Community: Milpitas, Suburban (San Jose)
Enrollment: 720
Grade Levels: 7-8
School Schedule: Traditional Calendar

Student Demographics

- 25% Hispanic
- 8% White
- 3% African American
- 20% Filipino
- 40% Asian
- 1% Pacific Islander
- 1% American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 2% Two or more races
- 7% Students w/ Disability
- 43% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 18% English Learners

School Wide Status in CA School Dashboard 2014:

English Language Arts: Green
Math: Green

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Technology tools including Chromebooks, Nexus tablets, iPads, and laptops are readily accessible
- Students have multiple academic enrichment opportunities to choose from such as Spelling Bee, Science Olympiad, Science Fair, Tech Challenge, Speech & Debate, and AMC 8.
- Enrichment classes are offered to all students before the start of school. Classes offered vary and have included Cooking, Spanish, Biological Illustration, Gardening, Yoga
- Support for struggling students is offered through Homework Club, Team Tutorial, Homework Help offered in teachers' rooms before and after school
- Project based learning teams collaborate during a common prep time to build meaningful interdisciplinary projects
- Aligning with Common Core Standards, students incorporate claim, evidence, and reasoning (CER) in multiple classes
- Connections with professionals in the field create deep and lasting impressions in our students and stimulate excitement about what is possible in their future career choices

Developmental Responsiveness

- Teachers work collaboratively in teams with common prep periods
- ELD teachers work together in a Professional Learning Community
- Each school day begins with an Advisory class which provides a place for positive staff and student interactions which assist staff in supporting and developing students' ethical and social development.
- Students enjoy participating in various cultural, sport, social, service and special interest clubs before, during, and after school
- A college-going and career readiness culture is fostered at Rancho through our College and Career Club, College Wear Wednesdays, AVID Program, College Week, and annual Career Day
- 92% of Rancho students reported that they have an adult that cares about them at school in the CA Healthy Kids Survey
- Because of our teaming and Advisory structure, student emotional, physical, and socio-emotional problems are recognized early and assistance can be provided by our resource specialist, counselor, psychologist, health clerk, and additional mental health providers, such as Counseling And Support Services for Youth (CASSY)
- Rancho students help create a sense of community amongst our families, students, and staff through performances such as a multicultural assembly, a talent show, and an Asian American Heritage Night, which is well attended by families eager to see their cultural backgrounds being proudly displayed and celebrated. Rancho's staff connects with families through outreach such as team family dinners, home visits, and team newsletters
- Students lead the way when it comes to our annual Student-Led Conferences. Students are given a template, either on paper or online, and are guided in creating a presentation which they give to their parents in the spring. Approximately 98% of Rancho families participated over the last three years

Social Equity

- Students are placed onto academic teams rather than academic tracks, with each team providing opportunities for all students to be placed in heterogeneous mainstream classes for their core, PE, and/or elective
- The master schedule is built with fluidity in mind (i.e. ELD interventions allow a student placed in our EL newcomer class block to be promoted to the Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) ELA class when ready while remaining on the class rosters of her other core teachers. Similarly when EL students are Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) at any of several checkpoints during the year, their schedules can be changed to accommodate their new language status without altering their team placement)
- Within classroom libraries, diverse books represent many cultural, religious, and social backgrounds
- Several clubs at Rancho give students more opportunities to celebrate and learn about cultural identity
- The monthly Principal's Newsletter is translated into Spanish and Vietnamese
- Rancho recognizes students who demonstrate growth. Students are selected as **Students of the Week** for demonstrating at least one of our school's core values: perseverance; compassion; pride; respect; responsibility; and collaborative problem solving. Teams identify **Students of the Month** for academics and behavior, the PE department awards **red shirts** to exemplary PE students; and teachers acknowledge students through positive emails or phone calls to families, **Ranchograms**, and awards created by their teams. Our **Spark Shirt program** honors students who have inspired others to do great, kind, and inclusive acts of service. Students can also earn a spot on the Honor roll
- Through data analysis our Discipline Data Review Team and school leadership group have met to discuss the equitability of trends in school discipline and brainstorm ways to decrease the need for disciplinary action, resulting in a significant decrease in student suspensions

Organizational Support

- Parent Orientations and communication with our elementary feeder schools have been improved to create a more coherent and cohesive experience for our incoming 7th graders
- Rancho's master schedule facilitates an ease of movement for special education students between their special education programs and mainstream classes
- Administrators have instituted a specially designed double block of classes for newly arrived English Learners. This block connects these students' ELD class to their ELA class with the same teacher in an effort to support them more effectively given their unique profile
- PD workshops throughout the school year focusing on understanding and implementing the Common Core Literacy Standards in the Content Areas (Science, Social Studies, Electives), with an initial focus on reading comprehension and corresponding subject-specific strategies. Time was dedicated during department meetings on Wednesdays and on dedicated PD days for Dr. Johnson to meet with Science, Social Studies, and Electives teachers
- Rancho teachers attend PD workshops offered in the District, County, and State levels