



CALIFORNIA SCHOOL TO WATCH

VISITOR'S GUIDE



John F. Kennedy Middle School



Designated in 2005

Re-Designated 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017

John F. Kennedy Middle School • El Centro Elementary School District • Imperial County • Michael Castillo, Principal • 900 North Sixth Street, El Centro, CA 92243 • Tel 760-352-0444, Fax (760) 353-0325 •

2016 School Statistics

(Sources: 2014 API Growth Report; 2015 AYP Report)

Community: Mid-sized city

Enrollment: 372

Grade Levels: 7-8

School Schedule: 7 periods—Modified rotating block

Student Demographics

- 96% Hispanic/Latino
- 2% White
- 1% African American
- 0% Asian
- 0% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 0% Filipino
- 0.5% Pacific Islander
- 0.5% Two or more races

- 91% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 51% English Learners

2009 API Growth: 698

2013 API Growth: 809 (up 111 points since 2009)

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- All teachers provide high quality, student-focused direct instruction using research-based strategies and standards-aligned pacing guides with formative/summative assessment materials.
- The teachers identify learning issues early and quickly to provide a means for support and remediation; interventions are built-in to the daily schedule.
- A reading support teacher provides help with lesson planning, data analysis, and professional development.
- Schoolwide use of choral responses, choral reading, think-pair-share, and non-verbal responses.
- A flexible schedule is designed to meet learning needs of students.
- Afterschool Education and Safety Program (ASES) for at-risk students: math, ELA, and enrichment.
- Root-Cause-Analysis is used to determine challenges in achieving grade-level standards.
- A math, engineering, science and achievement (MESA) program is offered to provide students with a hands on STEM experience.

Development Responsiveness

- “How To Help Your Child Succeed” is a sit program for parents and students.
- Parent trainings helps parents address middle grades issues.
- Connections across the curriculum and to students’ cultural background and interests abound in every classroom.
- Many enrichment activities are offered after school and on selected Saturdays to connect and motivate students.
- Physical education classes stress healthy lifestyles and promote exercise; physical education is connected to other disciplines.
- After-school enrichment and safety program is in place to ensure a rich and safe environment for students.

Social Equity

- Strong, coordinated supports are in place for students learning English.
- The school is a safe haven for students and has transformed the culture of the local neighborhood.
- Technology is actively used to facilitate learning and engage students.
- Every teacher is committed to ensuring that each student succeeds.
- A strong student-centered culture gets students involved and connected, thus reducing discipline issues and lowering the suspension rate.
- A Circle of Friends student group supports the inclusion of students and special needs students in school and activities.

Organizational Support

- Teacher empowerment is everywhere. Many teacher-leaders take positive decision-making roles.
- The school has created a data-driven school culture; classroom instruction is modified in response to data analysis and collaboration.
- A culture of continual improvement exists at the school.
- There are strong community and family connections. School is the center of the community.
- Many of the current teachers are former students from the school.
- Teachers coach and support each other; professional development is led by teachers.
- The community participates in school activities throughout the year: College and Career Day, Job Shadowing by a community member, Public Schools’ Week, Back to School Night, and trainings for parents, the academic decathlon, and lunch on the lawn with parents.