

R.H. DANA MIDDLE SCHOOL



2017-2018 SCHOOL STATISTICS

Designated in 2006

Re-Designated 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018

Community Size - Urban

School Enrollment - 1000

Grade Levels - 6, 7, 8

School Calendar - Modified Block

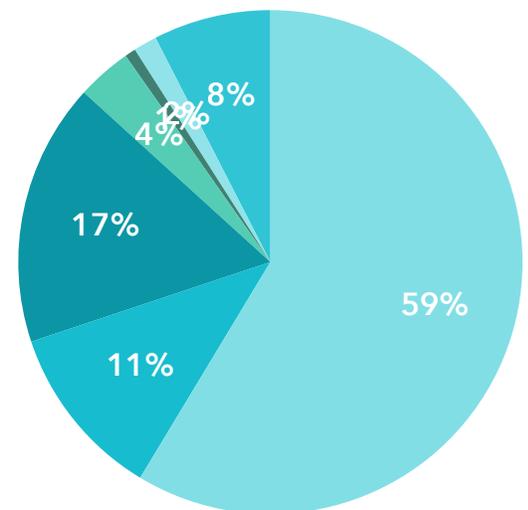
Free and Reduced Lunch 42.9%

English Learners 4.8%

Students With Disabilities 8.3%

R.H. Dana Middle School
 Wiseburn Unified School District
 5504 W 135th St Hawthorne, CA 90250
 Tel (310) 725-4701
 Principal - Blake Silvers, Ed.D.
www.danamiddle.net

2017-2018 School Demographics



School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Dana's Student Ownership of Learning (SOL) is a cornerstone program that supports ongoing student organization, gathering of work and provides a structure for consistent articulation among all stakeholders and is integrated in the daily Targeted Learning in Content (TLC) period, a 45-minute advisory course.
- The SOL program transitioned from "paper" Portfolios of Student Growth (PSG) to Digital Portfolios of Student Growth (DPSG). Students present the DPSG to their parents in an annual Student Led Conference.

- Dana Middle School promotes anytime stakeholder access to information regarding teaching and learning through the use of the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS).
- Teacher professional development takes place throughout the year with topics always focused on strengthening Dana's signature practices; the Dana Team Initiative (DTI), the Community of Respect and Empathy (CORE) Program, SOL, and Department-Level Professional Learning Community Meetings (PLCs) called HUBs that focus on collaboration and data-driven decision making.

Developmental Responsiveness

- The master schedule is designed to support interdisciplinary teacher teams and common planning periods to allow a collective group of teachers to work and focus on a small learning community of students.
- Dana Middle School enlisted a parent/community liaison to support our middle school families as they navigate the obstacles and challenges of the transition to, the movement through, and the transition out of middle school and into high school.
- Dana is home to the Wiseburn CrossFit program, which is available to all students. Teachers are certified as CrossFit, CrossFit Kids, and Olympic Weightlifting coaches and, aside from fitness-based PE courses, lead competitive after school fitness teams. Student clubs focusing on leadership, well-being, self-esteem, and academic enrichment offer a host of ways for students to grow during their time at Dana.
- School-wide character education presentations, along with the CORE ideology related to student behavior and relationship building on campus provide a sense of unity among students. Students advance their technology, creative and digital citizenship skills through PLTW and Future Ready Skills classes offered as electives.
- Our CORE program includes community outreach projects such as a 'support the homeless' campaign, a food drive for Thanksgiving, a holiday toy drive, and Pennies for Patients a school-wide fundraising effort for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society, which raises over \$10,000 annually.

Social Equity

- All curricular departments develop learning targets which have been rewritten to align with Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as well as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), to define lesson objectives and drive wide-ranging assessment options.
- The school schedule offers four days of extended block periods which encourages hands-on activities, student-centered, and collaborative active practice activities. A 0 Period allows students the option of taking Physical Education in the morning and two elective offerings during the regular school day.
- Teachers work personally with students in developing portfolios, reviewing grades/progress every other week, and developing plans for improvement through goal-setting activities.

- Dana's CORE program challenges all stakeholders to practice active listening and to address the root of misbehaviors and supports conflict resolution. Dana staff provides positive behavior supports using an online merit program.
- The Talking Teaching Network consulting group guides Dana Middle School's professional learning and planning and supports ELD teachers by facilitating data analysis and student placement input.

Organizational Support

- The structure of team facilitators, grade level and department teams, staff meetings, and student accountability promotes Dana's shared vision for distributive leadership and school improvement. Administration and teacher leadership teams meet monthly to discuss and plan.
- Professional learning partnerships with the Talking Teaching Network and Loyola Marymount University help leadership teams plan, implement, and study content and student work.
- Full staff, interdisciplinary teacher team meetings, and department-specific strategic planning occur each month.
- Data analysis continues to be an important component of Dana's approach as the faculty/staff uses current results from formative/summative assessments to make informed decisions and guide instruction.
- Local business partners include Boeing Corporation, the Aerospace Corporation, El Camino College, Pepperdine University, University of Southern California, Loyola Marymount University, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon Corporation, Chevron, and DirectTV, Chevron, and Boeing support Dana with grants in the area of science, engineering, technology, and mathematics, and student services.