



CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS TO WATCH

California Schools to Watch™ is a statewide program implemented by the California League of Schools, California Department of Education, California Middle Grades Alliance, National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, and the California Schools to Watch model schools. For more information, visit www.leagueofschools.org.



CHAPARRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Designated 2017; Re-Designated 2020

Walnut Valley Unified School District

Los Angeles County

Ron Thibodeaux, Principal

1405 South Spruce Tree Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91752

(909) 861-6227 Phone

www.chaparralmiddle.org

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Suburban; Enrollment: 1210; Grade Levels: 6-8; School Schedule: Rotating block schedule four days per week with one six period day per week. Daily “advocacy period.” Students scheduled into “cores” to provide school within a school. Zero period leadership class. Weekly late start for teacher collaboration.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

0.5% American Indian, 62% Asian, 3.5% African American, 4.3% Filipino, 19% Hispanic, 0.3% Pacific Islander, 10% White; 4.6% Free/reduced lunch; 12.6% English Learners.

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS AND REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Chaparral focuses on academics, activities, athletics, and arts for every student, with 90% of students participating in the arts.
- Students may choose a design-based learning core that utilizes a hands-on story building approach to enhance student content knowledge and make connections across disciplines.
- All teachers have been trained in implementation of Depth of Knowledge protocols and design instruction that targets Level 3 DOK or greater.
- Math teachers utilize computer-based math diagnostics and data analysis to provide targeted, timely interventions. The department is currently pioneering a coding curriculum to supplement math instruction.
- Supported by the block schedule, science teachers offer hands-on labs enhanced by grade-level outdoor education programs.
- Core units of study are designed collaboratively, Common Core-aligned, and sequenced per common assessments. School-wide learning initiatives are published in the student handbook and posted in classrooms.
- Teachers share common prep periods and a weekly late-start day to provide time for collaboration and coaching by on-campus curricular experts and technology coaches.
- Focusing on the whole child, Chaparral groups students into smaller core groups to foster positive student-teacher relationships and provide core activities to build a positive culture.
- The Character Counts program permeates the school through school and team activities, curriculum, and advocacy class.
- Parents are active on campus and supported by Facebook; Twitter; e-mails; newsletters; and face-to-face visits and conferences. Parent groups, including the Chinese American Parent Association, Hispanic Parent Group, and Community Club, complete the parent/school partnership.