



## SCHOOLS TO WATCH-TAKING CENTER STAGE

*Schools to Watch™-Taking Center Stage is a statewide program implemented by the California League of Middle Schools, California Department of Education, California Middle Grades Alliance, National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform and the Schools to Watch™-Taking Center Stage Model Schools*

For more information, visit [www.clms.net/stw](http://www.clms.net/stw).



### SERRANO MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Designated 2014; Re-designated 2017**

Ontario-Montclair School District

San Bernardino County

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#### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Suburban. Enrollment: 741. Grade levels: 7,8. School schedule: Six periods, block schedules.

#### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Free/reduced lunch: 92%. English learners: 26%.

#### REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Decision-making is based on striving toward the goal of providing every single student with highly rigorous and relevant academic instruction every minute of every school day.
- The school is an AVID Academy and AVID-trained staff use AVID strategies school wide that include the Critical Reading Strategy and Cornell note-taking.
- AVID elective classes participate in tutorials two days per week, bringing questions from any class and having peers help discover misconceptions to further understanding.
- Teachers use critical thinking and link learning to real-world applications, a crucial role of every lesson and students do this by engaging in scenarios/situations to simulate real world experiences and how they might apply this knowledge.
- In PLC's, teachers create assessments, and then create lessons that will allow students to be successful in those assessments.
- In student-led conferences, students walk their parents through their assessment data, examples of their work, examples of needed improvement, and lastly their goals.
- Project-based learning, the inquiry process, and integrated units of study are the outcome of blocking core subjects.
- Teachers use common prep periods to plan instruction, analyze data, and other instructional activity.
- A campus peer mentor is responsible for building relationships and providing guidance to students.
- Teachers actively provide opportunities for students to reflect and set future goals, which equip them to lead their parent conferences twice a year.
- As a result of housing a community collaborative and a counseling center as well as partnering with local service programs, the school offers family counseling, case management, and other services.
- The school hosts parting workshops that are developed in conjunction with the Parent Center.
- Students in leadership elective work towards running Renaissance Rallies, record and broadcast the "Daily News," and help keep the campus a well-functioning place.