



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.



CANYON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Designated 2007; Re-Designated 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019

Castro Valley Unified School District

Alameda County

April Wong, Principal

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SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Suburban; Enrollment: 1,411; Grade Levels: 6-8; School Schedule: Six periods with daily zero period

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

28% White; 24% Asian; 23% Hispanic/Latino; 10% Two or more races; 9% African American; 5% Filipino; 0% Pacific Islander; 0% American Indian/Alaska Native; 25% Free/Reduced Lunch; 5% English Learners

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS AND REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Many staff have participated in Guided Language Acquisition and Design (GLAD) trainings to help build students' literacy in a culturally responsive and supportive manner.
- School science staff benefit from the Science Partnership for Instructional Innovation grant through California State University, East Bay, as well as institutes on NGSS.
- At-risk students can access Math Booster Classes to support the pre-teaching and re-teaching they need to benefit from their "regular" math classes.
- Counselors "loop" with students to provide continuity and build relationships. They monitor students' academic and social progress and serve as liaisons between home and school.
- Counselor directed programs such as WEB, Random Acts of Kindness Club, Beyond Differences group, and PBIS, contribute to a positive school environment.
- Electives have been redesigned to align with CTE pathways developed at the feeder high school by focusing on: health, art, computers, and cultures. In addition, students benefit from *Middle School Career Pathway Camp* during the summer.
- A lunchtime "Zeros Aren't Permitted" program assists students in completing all assignments.
- Parents have benefited from the creation of groups designed to address the specific needs of underserved student populations such as: African American Alliance Network, Padres Unidos, and English Learner Advisory Committee.
- The school supports a variety of avenues for staff input. In addition to the school Leadership Team, teachers work on the AVID team, PBIS team, technology team, and participate in weekly PLC meetings.
- Support is provided to staff by two Teachers on Special Assignment who help teachers in literacy, math and science, and coordinate teacher peer observations.