



SCHOOLS TO WATCH – TAKING CENTER STAGE

MODEL SCHOOL – VISITOR’S GUIDE



Castaic Middle School



Designated 2003; Re-Designated 2006, 2009

Castaic Middle School • Castaic Union School District • Los Angeles County • Ellen K. Edeburn, Principal • 28900 Hillcrest Parkway, Castaic, CA 91384 • Tel 661-257-4550, Fax 661-294-9714 • <http://www.castaic.k12.ca.us/cms/>

2009 School Statistics

(Sources: 2009 API Growth Report; 2009 AYP Report)

Community: Urban fringe of a large city
Enrollment: 1,152
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Six periods with 17-minute advisory period

Student Demographics

- 58% White
- 28% Hispanic/Latino
- 6% Filipino
- 5% African American
- 4% Asian
- 0% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 0% Pacific Islander

- 16% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 7% English Learners

2008 API Base: 825

2009 API Growth: 830 (up 137 points since 1999-00)

2009 AYP: Met 21 of 25 criteria

(Visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/index.asp> to view this school's data for prior years.)

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Articulation teaming is on multiple levels—interdisciplinary teams, vertical teams, and content grade-level teams.
- Data-driven curriculum decisions utilize common assessments, benchmark testing, and Edusoft software.
- A pilot co-teaching model provides equitable access to curriculum.
- Brain-researched academic vocabulary strategies are used school-wide.
- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) classes support the college-going atmosphere.
- The eighth grade Portfolio Day gives students real-world experiences with interviewing.
- Intervention periods are fluid to meet the needs of all students.
- The afterschool Homework Club provides support for rigorous classes.
- Before- and after-school opportunities include visual and performing arts and a national award-winning student-led digital television studio.
- Student-led conferences happen multiple times a year.

(Continued)

Developmental Responsiveness

- A school counselor meets students' individual needs.
- Teacher looping gives students a sense of family.
- A daily advisory period supports students' academic and social needs.
- Sixth grade is structured as a small learning community to assist with transition from elementary school.
- Peers Assisting With Solutions (PAWS) is a peer mediation program where students help each other to settle disputes.
- Achieving Character Together (ACT) is a character development program focusing on self-esteem.
- Youth Summit is an annual citywide community-based youth outreach program where seventh and eighth graders from all schools come together as leaders and learners.
- Project Seventh Grade is an after-school drug prevention program for students and their parents.
- Character education is delivered via John Wooten's Pyramid of Success program and Character Counts!
- Services for students include three counselors, four counseling interns, and one school psychologist on campus.
- Transition through activities with feeder elementary schools and destination high schools is assisted through activities involving all schools.

Social Equity

- Associated Student Body and the student council provide noon activities, dances, and cultural celebrations and build a sense of community.
- Clubs include Robotics, Diversity Club, Skate Club, National Junior Honor Society, Art Club, Choir, Guitar.
- All information is provided in English and Spanish including the school's Connect Ed phone home service.
- Students are recognized for academic success, community service, character, athletics, and citizenship.

Organizational Support

- Weekly shortened Wednesdays give time for teacher collaboration with a focus on rigor, intervention, and assessment needs within the school's professional learning community.
- Teacher-leaders participate in implementing focus goals and assist in staff development and master scheduling.
- The administration partners with nearby universities to provide resources and support for educator training programs and administrator credentialing.
- Parents participate on the school's English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC) and District-level English Language Advisory Council (DELAC), Parent Teacher Student Association, and the site council.
- Training of trainer-teachers provides professional development models of best practices.