



SCHOOLS TO WATCH – TAKING CENTER STAGE

MODEL SCHOOL – VISITOR’S GUIDE



Castaic Middle School



Designated 2003; Re-Designated 2006, 2009

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2010 School Statistics

(Sources: 2010 API Growth Report; 2010 AYP Report)

Community: Urban fringe of a large city
Enrollment: 1,137
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Six periods with 17-minute advisory period on rotating schedule

Student Demographics

- 55% White
- 29% Hispanic/Latino
- 5% Filipino
- 4% African American
- 4% Asian
- 3% Two or more races
- 0% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 0% Pacific Islander

- 21% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 7% English Learners

2009 API Base: 823

2010 API Growth: 831 (up 145 points since 1999-00)

2010 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

- Interdisciplinary teams
- Data-driven curriculum decisions utilize common assessments, data software, and district writing and multiple English-language arts and math benchmark testing.
- Brain-researched academic vocabulary strategies are used school-wide.
- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) classes for 7th and 8th grades, which support the college-going atmosphere.
- Cornell note-taking are used school-wide.
- Targeted intervention periods are fluid to meet the needs of all students before, during, and after school.
- The afterschool Homework Club provides support for rigorous classes.
- Weekly shortened Wednesdays give time for interdisciplinary teams to collaborate with a focus on rigor, intervention, and assessment needs within the school's professional learning community.

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Developmental Responsiveness

- Sixth grade is structured as a small learning community to assist with transition from elementary school.
- A daily advisory period supports students' academic and social needs.
- Services for students on campus include three counselors, four counseling interns, and one school psychologist to meet students' individual needs.
- Teacher looping gives students a sense of family.
- The eighth grade Portfolio Day gives students real-world experiences with interviewing.
- Peers Assisting With Solutions (PAWS) is a peer mediation program where students help each other to settle disputes.
- Youth Summit is an annual city-wide, 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 school-wide via John Wooten's Pyramid of Success program.
- Student-led conferences happen multiple times a year.
- Before- and after-school opportunities include visual and performing arts and a national award-winning student-led digital television studio.

Social Equity

- All information is provided in English and Spanish including the school's Connect Ed phone home service.
- Associated Student Body and the student council provide noon activities, dances, and cultural celebrations and build a sense of community.
- Strong exploratory program includes: Nationally recognized CMStv/video production, theater arts, guitar, band, painting and ceramics courses for all grade levels
- Clubs include Robotics, Diversity Club, Skate Club, National Junior Honor Society, Art Club, and Choir before school.
- The library and computer lab open every Tuesday and Thursday after school with credential teachers as support.
- Students are recognized for academic success, community service, character, athletics, and citizenship.
- Co-teaching model in sixth grade English-language arts provides equitable access to curriculum.

Organizational Support

- Teacher-leaders participate in implementing focus goals and assist in staff development and master scheduling.
- The Professional Development team provides on-site professional development models of best practices.
- Articulation is on multiple levels with vertical and curriculum teams.
- Transition through activities with feeder elementary schools and destination high schools is assisted through activities involving all schools.
- 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
- The administration partners with nearby universities to provide resources and support for educator training programs and administrator credentialing.