



# SCHOOLS TO WATCH – TAKING CENTER STAGE

## MODEL SCHOOL – VISITOR’S GUIDE



### Edna Hill Middle School



### 2009 School Statistics

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

Community: Suburban  
Enrollment: 771  
Grade Levels: 6-8  
School Schedule: Eight-period with 94-minute core block (language arts-social studies)

#### Student Demographics

- 44% White
- 39% Hispanic/Latino
- 9% African American
- 3% Filipino
- 2% Asian
- 1% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 1% Pacific Islander
  
- 39% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 17% English Learners

2008 API Base: 781  
2009 API Growth: 804 (up 118 points since 1999-00)  
2009 AYP: Met 22 of 23 criteria

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

### Designated 2007, Re-Designated 2010

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## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- The school schedule is built upon an eight-period day:
  - Core consists of a 94-minute block of language arts and social studies.
  - An additional 30 minutes of language arts and social studies is provided on Wednesdays.
- Weekly common planning time allows teachers to review students' individual learning plans and data.
- Students needing extended time are assigned to a double block of algebra.
- Academic interventions include:
  - Academic support classes for struggling readers during school, before school, and after school.
  - Math accelerated class has additional pre- and re-teach instructional time.
- Teachers develop and score common assessments aligned to standards and California Standard Test blueprints.

(Continued)

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Welcome Everybody (WEB) program transitions new students to school.
- Students are grouped into interdisciplinary teams.
- Students loop with their teachers in English language arts and social studies.
- Students create a three-year individual learning plan and conduct student-led conferences.
- Daily advisory period includes a student study of Sean Covey's *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* which has been effective in reducing suspensions, diversity, and study skills; all students are in a three-year loop with the same advisory teacher.
- Students are offered an array of electives—music, drama, art, health, technology, industrial arts, all levels of band, choir, yearbook, and leadership.
- Lunchtime activities include intramural sports and tournaments.
- After-school activities include cross country, wrestling, softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, cheerleading, and track.
- After the Bell curriculum explores the 40 developmental assets for adolescents.

### **Social Equity**

- Resource officers support and conduct Reduce Adolescent Violence Education (RAVE).
- Declining suspensions and referrals are attributed to alternative discipline methods.
- Home visits by the principal and teachers reach out to Hispanic families.
- Students are heterogeneously grouped across teams.
- There is a “walk-through” coaching process for English language learner classroom teachers.
- The school actively seeks to involve and connect with parents.
- Diversity curriculum is a part of advisory classes.
- Students are rewarded and provided incentives on many levels including positive notes home, PAWS (Positively Awesome Wonderful Students) awards, and student recognition of demonstrated good character traits.

### **Organizational Support**

- All staff members have every opportunity to reach their capacity and cultivate shared leadership through teaching and learning teams, advisory council teams, or team leadership.
- Long-term systemic planning is routine for staff through their professional learning communities.
- School staff members actively gather and analyze data as the basis for the decision-making process.
- Collaborative learning time for teachers is scheduled weekly with established protocols and agendas.
- Most decisions are made through a collaborative decision-making process.
- The school holds itself accountable for the success of each and every student.
- The school enjoys strong connections and partnerships with parents, the greater community, and universities.
- The student center handles all attendance, discipline, counseling, and in-school suspensions.