



SCHOOLS TO WATCH – TAKING CENTER STAGE

MODEL SCHOOL – VISITOR’S GUIDE



John F. Kennedy Middle School



Designated 2005; Re-Designated 2008, 2011

John F. Kennedy Middle School • El Centro Elementary School District • Imperial County • Juan Cruz, Principal
• 900 North Sixth Street, El Centro, CA 92243 • Tel 760-352-0444, Fax (760) 353-0325 •

<http://www.ecsd.k12.ca.us/education/school/school.php?sectionid=12&>

2010 School Statistics

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

Community: Mid-sized city
Enrollment: 588
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: 6 periods–Modified Mondays for morning in-service

Student Demographics

- 94% Hispanic/Latino
- 3% White
- 1% African American
- 0% Asian
- 0% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 0% Filipino
- 0% Pacific Islander
- 0% Two or more races

- 88% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 48% English Learners

2009 API Base: 698

2010 API Growth: 737 (up 209 points since 1999-00)

2010 AYP: Met 17 of 17 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

- All teachers provide high quality, student-focused direct instruction using standards-aligned assessment materials.
- The teachers identify learning issues early and quickly to provide a means for support and remediation.
- A reading support teacher provides help with lesson planning, data analysis, and professional development.
- Interventions of 30 minutes are built-in to the daily schedule.
- A flexible schedule is designed to meet learning needs of students.

Development Responsiveness

- Connections across the curriculum and to students’ cultural background and interests abound in every classroom.

(Continued)

Development Responsiveness *(continued)*

- Many enrichment activities are offered after school and on selected Saturdays to connect and motivate students.
- Physical education classes stress healthy lifestyles and promote exercise; physical education is connected to other disciplines.
- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens and the Second Step (anti-bullying program) are in place during advisory period.
- Ambassador’s Club gives students voice and leadership skills.
- After-school enrichment and safety program is in place to ensure a rich and safe environment for students.

Social Equity

- Strong, coordinated supports are in place for students learning English.
- The school is a safe haven for students and has transformed the culture of the local neighborhood.
- Technology is actively used to facilitate learning.
- Sixth graders are provided with an elective wheel to explore interests.
- Every teacher is committed to ensuring that each student succeeds.
- A strong student-centered culture gets students involved and connected, thus reducing discipline issues and lowering the suspension rate..

Organizational Support

- Teacher empowerment is everywhere. Many teacher-leaders take positive decision-making roles.
- The school has created a data-driven school culture.
- A culture of continual improvement exists at the school.
- There are strong community and family connections. School is the center of the community.
- Many of the current teachers are former students from the school.
- Teachers coach and support each other; professional development is led by teachers.
- A Monday morning in-service provides time for department collaboration and data analysis.