



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.



MCFARLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Designated 2017

McFarland Unified School District
Kern County
Manuel Cantu, Principal
405 Mast Avenue, McFarland, CA 93250
mcfarlandusd.com/MMS

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Rural; Enrollment: 799; Grade Levels: 6-8; Schedule: Block schedule with 90 minutes for math and ELA. Minimum day on Wednesday for staff collaboration and flex Friday provides one additional period for collaboration.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

98% Hispanic, 0.5% Asian, 0.5% African American, 0.8% White; 100% Free/Reduced Lunch; 33% English Learners.

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS AND REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Assisted by the school's Rigorous Curriculum Design committee, teachers post daily learning targets and goals related to the lesson in every classroom to assure lessons are rigorous and standards-based, and support the schoolwide focus on academic vocabulary and AVID strategies.
- The schedule supports interdisciplinary teams in 6th and 7th grade and a block schedule with 90 minutes for English and math to provide time for interventions and support.
- Actively engaged in their learning communities, teachers meet on Friday and Wednesday, as well as during common grade level prep periods to analyze common data and plan together for effective instruction and re-teaching.
- The school works collaboratively with CSU Bakersfield to offer research-based interventions such as the TRIO program designed to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds seeking higher education. Students are also supported through the WEB program and the AVID program.
- Opportunities for STEM-based curriculum occur in electives, Google classroom, video production lab, new subject area adoptions, and STEM-based electives such as Whitebox Engineering, which utilizes an autocad system to create and design student projects.
- Staff benefit from school, district, and outside training and have participated in staff development in Depth of Knowledge, professional learning communities, Google Classroom training, and four years of rigorous curriculum design training.
- School administration has developed and utilizes a teacher feedback tool called C3 (collect, connect, coach), which offers immediate feedback on agreed upon classroom practices.
- The school has also developed an effective digital tool used by the professional learning communities to provide feedback on their work.