



# SCHOOLS TO WATCH – TAKING CENTER STAGE

## MODEL SCHOOL – VISITOR’S GUIDE



### Tincher Preparatory School



#### Designated in 2009

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<http://www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/tincher/home.html>

### 2009 School Statistics

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

Community: Large city  
Enrollment: 928; 436 in the middle grades (six, seven, and eight)  
Grade Levels: K-8  
School Schedule: Six periods for middle grades students

#### Student Demographics

- 35% White
- 27% Hispanic/Latino
- 21% African American
- 11% Asian
- 2% Filipino
- 1% Pacific Islander
- 0% American Indian/Alaska Native
  
- 48% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 9% English Learners

2008 API Base: 840

2009 API Growth: 843 (up 231 points since 1999-00)

2009 AYP: Met 25 of 26 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

- A rigorous academic program includes GATE classes and Tincher’s Opportunity for Preparing Scholars.
- Students receive immediate feedback on submitted writing samples by the new interactive writing program, MyAccess.
- Each day in every class, an essential question or the lesson objective is posted to inform students of the focus of the day’s lesson.
- Anchor papers are used to provide examples of good writing that is aligned to the language arts content standards.
- Cross-age tutoring and cross-curricular projects are used to avoid isolated education.
- Computer labs, document cameras, and mobile laptop carts bring technology into everyday lessons; technology is used for researching content areas and careers, verifying data, and preparing students for in-class activities.
- A streaming video library is used throughout the school to supplement classroom materials and to engage students.
- Schoolwide use of Cornell note-taking facilitates connections between classes.

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### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- A local agency provides counseling services at no cost.
- The Parent Liaison and the School Community Worker provide outreach and educational services to parents on a variety of topics—Content Standards, Supporting Your Child, Getting Ready for High School, and other parent engagement activities.
- Struggling students are paired with volunteer adult mentors (Tincher Buddies).
- The use of the Socratic seminar gives students a forum to voice concerns, discuss important issues, develop listening and reasoning skills, and teach appreciation of different viewpoints and opinions.
- The Issues Bin provides students with a forum to address classroom, school, and personal issues.
- Students may participate in student government as well as a wide variety of teacher-sponsored clubs.
- The electives include marine biology, Spanish, technology AVID, speech and drama, and visual and performing arts.
- Students create end of unit projects based on their unique interests and learning styles and the use of Renzulli software assists teachers in identifying and group students based on their learning styles.

### **Social Equity**

- Translation services are provided at parent conferences and parent education seminars.
- Teachers, counselors, and administrative staff collaborate to ensure students are placed in the most appropriate setting and classes are balanced across gender, ethnic, and behavioral traits; students are not permanently tracked in any program.
- Specialized software and teacher observation are used to identify students' learning styles and then more effectively use differentiated instruction through the use of curriculum compacting, tiered assignments, and extension menus.
- Students with special needs are in regular classrooms with in-class support for RSP (Resource Specialist Program).
- Literary works that reflect Tincher's different cultures are used in addition to state-adopted textbooks.
- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) prepares historically underrepresented students for college.
- Students are recognized for exhibiting good character as taught in a character education program.
- Procedures are taught, modeled, and reinforced throughout the year using a positive reinforcement system to recognize appropriate behaviors and a point system to determine student participation in extracurricular events.

### **Organizational Support**

- School goals are developed based on data analysis and with input from the parents and teachers on the school site council.
- Innovation is encouraged by administration and based on a staff belief that "there is always a better way of doing things."
- Data assessment is used to drive instruction, identify areas of need and developing action plans to address them.
- Each grade-level's teachers have common planning time that are used to conduct team conferences with parents, discuss student progress, and share instructional practices.
- The principal allows release time for teachers wishing to develop their professional practice through observation of colleagues.
- A close relationship with California State University, Long Beach allows for college work-study students to help serve Tincher students; as well as allowing for observation hours in the teacher preparation program.