



# SCHOOLS TO WATCH – TAKING CENTER STAGE

## MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR’S GUIDE



### Tincher Preparatory School



#### Designated in 2009

Tincher Preparatory School • Long Beach Unified School District • Los Angeles County • William Vogel, Principal • 1701 Petaluma Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90815 • Tel 562-493-2636, Fax 562-594-0818 •

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

### 2007-2008 School Statistics

(Sources: 2008 API Growth Report; 2008 AYP Report)

Community: Large city  
Enrollment: 1,139; 429 in the middle grades (six, seven, and eight)  
Grade Levels: K-8  
School Schedule: Six periods for middle grades students

#### Student Demographics

- 37% White
- 27% Hispanic/Latino
- 21% African American
- 10% Asian
- 3% Filipino
- 1% Pacific Islander
- 0% American Indian/Alaska Native
  
- 50% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 8% English Learners

2007 API Base: 810

2008 API Growth: 845 (up 228 points since 1999-00)

2008 AYP: Met 25 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

- A rigorous academic program includes GATE classes as well as Tincher's Opportunity for Preparing Scholars.
- Expectations are outlined in a middle school coursebook.
- Each day in every class, an essential question for the day 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, docucameras, 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.

(Continued)

**Developmental Responsiveness**

- A local agency provides counseling services at no cost.
- The Parent Liaison and the School Community Worker provide outreach and educational services on a variety of topics—Content Standards, Supporting Your Child, Getting Ready for High School, and other parent engagement activities.
- Teachers engage students with inquiry- and project-based learning, independent studies, extension menus, active participation, and educational broadcasts.
- 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 classroom 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.

**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 at Long Beach allows for college work-study students to help serve Tincher students; college students may also earn observation hours that are required as part of the university's teacher preparation program as well as allowing for observation hours in the teacher preparation program.