

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.



ANDREW CARNEGIE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Designated 2011, Re-Designated 2014, 2018

San Juan Unified School District

Sacramento County

Suzanne Bender, Principal

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SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Urban fringe of large city. Enrollment: 1039. Grade Levels 6-8. Schedule: Six Period day with daily Homeroom. Early release on Thursday to facilitate staff collaboration.

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

Free/Reduced Lunch: 33%; English Learners: 3%

REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Carnegie provides intervention opportunities through after school tutoring, group collaboration in classrooms, AVID tutorials, teaching assistants, and a math tutorial class offered as support for core math class. In addition, a Read 180 class is offered during the school day for students who are not yet proficient in Reading/Language Arts.
- Pacing guides, lesson plans and assessments in all curricular areas are used to drive instruction and to analyze student performance.
- Teachers are supported by release time weekly to meet by department or grade level to analyze student work, plan for interventions and discuss best practices.
- Students develop goals for the year in the areas of behavior, responsibility, and work habits which supports the work of measuring progress.
- Study strategies are built into weekly lessons including Cornell note taking, text mapping, review of testing language, and the use of online resources and textbooks.
- Daily Homeroom provides time for monitoring student progress, goal setting, participating in character education activities, and preparing for Student Led conferences.
- A variety of electives are available to students including: Garage Band, 3 levels of band, film production, music composition, photography and visual arts.
- Carnegie families benefit from campus visitation days where students and their families can spend time on campus, visit classrooms, and speak with teachers, administrators and students.
- Utilizing the "Naviance" program, the counseling team works with eighth grade students on developing an individualized six-year goal setting plan that begins in middle school and guides them through high school.
- Release time is provided consistently for peer observations and content area collaboration with the goal of improving teaching methodology, classroom management, assessment and professional relationships.
- Carnegie has a well-developed, award winning Video Production program that trains students to continue to pursue this interest in high school and beyond.