



## CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS TO WATCH

California Schools to Watch™ is a statewide program implemented by the California League of Schools, California Department of Education, California Middle Grades Alliance, National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, and the California Schools to Watch model schools. For more information, visit [www.leagueofschools.org](http://www.leagueofschools.org).



### SUZANNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### Designated 2017; Re-Designated 2020

Walnut Valley Unified School District

Los Angeles County

Lester Ojeda, Principal

525 Suzanne Road, Walnut, CA 91789

[suzanne.wvusd.k12.ca.us](http://suzanne.wvusd.k12.ca.us)

#### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Suburban; Enrollment: 1,289; Grade Levels: 6-8; School Schedule: Rotating seven period day including daily Advisory. Early release on Thursday to support staff collaboration.

#### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

52% Asian, >1% American Indian, 2% African American, 8% Filipino, 25% Hispanic, >1% Pacific Islander, 12% White; 16% Free/Reduced Lunch; 8% English Learners.

#### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS AND REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Professional learning for staff is developed by a survey of staff needs. In addition, all staff were trained in communicating clear learning goals to students and including students in the metacognitive process of analyzing goals resulting in a school wide emphasis on literacy and critical thinking.
- School climate and character education are addressed through a comprehensive program including Suzanne Summits, a day-long team building events for each grade level; Blue and White Tea, focusing on etiquette and social graces; Pillar Breakfast; Pals/Plus Programs of peer counseling and advisement; and “Palamies,” 8th grade students serving as “pals” to 6th grade students.
- Interventions and enrichments are built into the schedule including advanced classes in ELA and math, as well as support classes such as a two hour block of ELA, special education services, homework support, and EL intervention classes that concentrate on speaking, reading, and writing.
- An array of academic clubs are offered after school such as robotics, MathCounts, debate club, Science Olympiad and civic bridge which challenge and motivate students in the STEAM areas.
- In the technology enrichment program students create audio-visual presentations, use math to program robots, create objects on 3D printers, learn to write code, and create animation presentations.
- Staff work collaboratively to create pacing guides, common assessments, benchmark exams, common rubrics, and performance-based assessments which are analyzed in PLCs during release time and common prep periods.
- Staff works to develop alliances with families through parent advisory groups, multiple on-line resources for parents, focused parent nights, and a YouTube channel hosted by the art teacher to extend art lessons and creative ideas to students and families at home.