

## 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](http://www.clms.net/stw).



### ALDER CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Designated 2016; Re-Designated 2019**

Tahoe Truckee Unified School District

Nevada County

Hien Larson, Principal

10931 Alder Drive, Truckee, CA 96161

530-582-2750 Phone | 530-582-7640 Fax

[acms.ttusd.org/pages/Alder\\_Creek\\_Middle\\_School](http://acms.ttusd.org/pages/Alder_Creek_Middle_School)

#### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Rural; Enrollment: 497; Grades: 5-6-7-8; School Schedule: Seven-period day with advisory once per week and a reading/ELD period. Wednesday minimum day. Common content area preps. Zero period and after school classes offered.

#### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

0.1% American Indian/Native American; 0.5% Asian/Asian American; 0.1% Black/African American; 0.6% Filipino/Filipino American; 27% Hispanic; 0.1% Pacific Islander; 69% White; 0.6 % Other; 36% Free/Reduced Lunch; 30% English Learners

#### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS AND REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Extensive elective offerings include RTI, technology, film making, community service, art, forensic science, music, digital citizenship, and brain games.
- School-wide emphasis on effective instructional strategies such as: design thinking, explicit direct instruction, problem-based learning, Google Classroom, and interdisciplinary instruction.
- Effective use of technology as a tool for instruction throughout the school; 1:1 computer ratio.
- Daily advisory class to address school climate and social-emotional issues.
- Academic support available before, during, and after school includes tutoring, homework club, mentoring, and after-school GATE science. Schedule allows for pullout for enhancement and support classes in order to re-teach specific content skills or access to RTI classes in math and English.
- Shared prep time utilized to create common assessments, build rubrics, review formative assessments, and plan responses to learning.
- Shared partnerships with University of Reno, Sierra Nevada College, and CUE create opportunities for learning for both staff and students. Students experience “college for a day” and professors/students volunteer in classrooms.
- School offers multiple opportunities for service learning as well as opportunities for mentoring through Positively Rolling life skills art program, and Big Brothers/ Big Sisters.
- The majority of staff have been trained in leadership coaching.
- Differentiated learning is a school-wide focus.