

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.



TOBY JOHNSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Designated 2006, Re-Designated 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018

Elk Grove School District

Sacramento County

Adam Wood, Principal

10099 Franklin High Road, Elk Grove, CA 95757

Tel (916)714-8181

awood@egusd.net

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Urban fringe of large city. Enrollment: 1,318. Grades: 7-8. Schedule: Four X Four alternating block schedule with teaming and looping of students and teachers. Late start for students on Wednesday for collaboration. Daily five periods with thirty-minute Advocacy class one day per week.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Free/Reduced Lunch: 35%; English Learners: 6%

REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Toby Johnson's innovative block schedule and "looping" of students who remain on their teams for two years provides for a greater understanding of each student and opportunities for interdisciplinary instruction.
- The Wednesday "Advocacy Program" provides opportunities to cover topics such as sexual harassment, digital literacy, bullying, social media as well as assisting students in building a ten-year college/career plan.
- Supported by the block schedule, students have access to a wide variety of career education and visual and performing arts options as well as Design Thinking and Spanish, Japanese or French.
- With no prerequisites, all students select from a College Prep or Honors Program. Several classes (Computer Technology I, II, Science, Foreign Language) allow students high school credit potentially completing four high school courses during their eighth grade year.
- Students in need of additional academic support can enroll in the ELA Literacy class and/or the Math computer-based intervention program. Students are also given additional assistance after school. Special Education students are supported by in-class assistance in the regular education program as well as a Study Skills class offered during the school day by the Resource Teacher.
- With the addition of Design Thinking and Computer Science classes many of Toby Johnson's elective offerings lineup with the six career pathways programs at the neighboring high school.
- In order to meet the needs of all students Toby Johnson offers a three-week summer program
- for incoming eighth grade students who struggled in seventh grade; a three day "Jump Start" middle school program for new students who need a more substantial orientation prior to the start of the school year; and an extended day program throughout the academic year.
- Vice Principals and Counselors are linked, by team, to a consistent cohort of students and teachers providing an integrated delivery and response to intervention model. In addition, PBIS, teaming, and restorative justice methods have worked to create a positive school climate,