



## 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).



### SINALOA MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Designated 2013; Re-designated 2016, 2019**

Simi Valley Unified School District

Ventura County

Diana Janke, Principal

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<http://www.sinaloamiddleschool.com>

#### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Suburb, Mid-Size Territory; Enrollment: 927; Grade Levels: 6-8; School Schedule: Six periods with a morning homeroom class and early dismissal Thursdays

#### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

54% White; 31% Hispanic; 7% Asian; 3% Filipino; 2% African American; 2% Two or More Races; 1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0% Pacific Islander; 31% Free/Reduced Lunch; 4% English Learners

#### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS AND REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Sinaloa has fully implemented the CHAMPS behavior management program throughout the school providing students with clear, common expectations.
- Changing the schedule and employing an RTI coordinator, the school offers thirty minutes per day for timely, interventions or enrichment. Sixth grade employs a flexible schedule to offer additional support/expansion opportunities for students.
- Working to implement literacy strategies across the curriculum staff has developed the *Sinaloa Playbook* to prescribe common instructional strategies to strengthen literacy instruction across the disciplines.
- To support academics and to offer opportunities for all students to participate in electives, classes are offered zero period and after school. In addition, Honors classes and focused study halls are also offered to meet individual needs.
- Early dismissal on Thursdays provides collaboration time within and across departments. This time is also used to discuss best practices and instructional methods to add to the *Sinaloa Playbook*.
- Students are provided multiple opportunities to explore a rich variety of topics and interests through the elective and co-curricular offerings at Sinaloa such as: guitar, jazz band, aeronautics, robotics, mock trial, oceanography, dance, and an independent study program for French and Spanish after school.
- Sinaloa is developing a new “lens” for viewing learning by studying and implementing Carol Dweck’s growth mindset practices and attitudes.
- Parent communication is ongoing and timely through the use of websites, email, text messages, Twitter, principal’s weekly newsletter, Google Calendar, and organized parent groups and parenting classes throughout the year.
- In addition to staff development embedded in department and faculty meetings, teachers are encouraged to attend conferences and workshops. Twice a year staff district-wide share promising practices and innovative ideas during common staff development days.
- Sinaloa is working to become part of the “Career Technology Pathways” program of the district by offering robotics, animation, wood design, aeronautics, health/sports medicine, engineering, and education.