



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.



LOS ALISOS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Designated 2020

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District
Los Angeles County
Mahid Salehi, Principal
14800 Jersey Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 210-3495

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: urban. Enrollment: 1,188. Grade Levels: 6-8. School Schedule: Six-period day; 6th-grade cored classes with same students plus elective; 7th- and 8th-grade classes departmentalized by subject with elective.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Free/reduced lunch: 86%. Students with disabilities: 12%. English learners: 12%

REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- The school offers an extensive STEM magnet experience for students with problem-based learning; courses such as Project Lead The Way, USC robotics, video production; and clubs that include Code Club, Femineers, and RoboLobos.
- A strong visual and performing arts program features courses and extracurricular activities such as choir, band, orchestra, and cheer that bolster 21st-century skills development through STEAM experiences.
- A thriving, ongoing culture of continual professional growth sees bimonthly professional development and common planning time, shared learning outcomes, walk-throughs, classroom coaching, and transparent conversations in order to raise students' critical thinking and depth of knowledge.
- Driven by rigor, relevance, and student engagement SMART goals, all educators engage in research, data monitoring, and evaluation to adjust courses and instructional strategies to meet students' needs.
- Los Alisos is a highly qualified AVID school, and teachers implement AVID WICOR strategies (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading) throughout their classes.
- Social-emotional assistance is a priority, with counselors, interns, and a full-time therapist working closely with administration, teachers, and parents to provide targeted supports.