

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.



JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Designated 2005, Re-Designated 2008, 2011, 2018

El Centro Elementary School District

Imperial County

Richard Sanchez, Principal

900 North Sixth Street, El Centro, CA 92243

Tel (760) 352-0444

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Mid-sized city. Enrollment: 588. Grade Levels: 6 periods–Modified Mondays for morning in-service

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Free/Reduced Lunch: 88%; English Learners: 48%.

REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- All teachers provide high quality, student-focused direct instruction using standards-aligned assessment materials.
- The teachers identify learning issues early and quickly to provide a means for support and remediation.
- A reading support teacher provides help with lesson planning, data analysis, and professional development.
- Interventions of 30 minutes are built-in to the daily schedule.
- A flexible schedule is designed to meet learning needs of students.
- Connections across the curriculum and to students' cultural background and interests abound in every classroom.
- Many enrichment activities are offered after school and on selected Saturdays to connect and motivate students.
- Physical education classes stress healthy lifestyles and promote exercise; physical education is connected to other disciplines.
- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens and the Second Step (anti-bullying program) are in place during advisory period.
- Ambassador's Club gives students voice and leadership skills.
- After-school enrichment and safety program is in place to ensure a rich and safe environment for students.
- Strong, coordinated supports are in place for students learning English.
- The school is a safe haven for students and has transformed the culture of the local neighborhood.
- Technology is actively used to facilitate learning.
- Sixth graders are provided with an elective wheel to explore interests.
- Every teacher is committed to ensuring that each student succeeds.
- A strong student-centered culture gets students involved and connected, thus reducing discipline issues and lowering the suspension rate.
- Teacher empowerment is everywhere. Many teacher-leaders take positive decision-making roles.
- The school has created a data-driven school culture.
- A culture of continual improvement exists at the school.
- There are strong community and family connections. School is the center of the community.
- Many of the current teachers are former students from the school.
- Teachers coach and support each other; professional development is led by teachers.
- A Monday morning in-service provides time for department collaboration and data analysis.