

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.



WILSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Designated 2015, Re-Designated 2018

El Centro Elementary School District

Imperial County

Maria Ambriz, Principal

600 South Wilson Street, El Centro, CA 92243

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Urban fringe. Enrollment: 672. Grade Levels: 7-8. Schedule: Six-period day with daily 25-minute advisory class.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Free/Reduced Lunch: 82%; English Learners: 31%.

REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- All core subjects use common curriculum guides, pacing maps and common assessments; literacy standards are incorporated across the curriculum
- Cooperative learning is used in science, math, AVID, writing groups, PE and music
- Support/intervention provided before and after school plus in flexible advisory grouping
- Administrators and teachers meet with parents of every student with a 2.0 GPA or less
- Reading coach provides coaching, mentoring, demonstrations and observations
- Parent conferences, parenting classes, AVID and GATE parent meetings, migrant education parent meetings and special education conferences
- School-wide focus on direct instruction, partnering, small group work and inquiry-based projects; study skills are taught in advisory classes
- Community service required for promotion; community projects draw many participants
- After-school program provides sports, drama, art and STEM; an exemplary physical fitness program for all students has garnered county honors for fitness
- Enrichment is offered in GATE classes and differentiation is offered in all classes
- Professional development: PLC best practices sessions, data analysis meetings and site/district workshops
- Culture of respect: Advisory and a focus on relationships with students
- Literature materials and library books emphasize diverse populations
- Constant improvement shows via PLC minutes, test scores, AVID/Common Core
- Peer coaching, demonstration lessons and observations provided by peer coach | Parents, students and school sign a "Three Way Pledge" to support one another
- Test scores led to school honor roll recognition by the Business Education Alliance