

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.



MARE ISLAND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Designated 2017

Vallejo Unified School District

Solano County

Matt Smith, Principal

2 Positive Place, Vallejo, CA 94589

Tel (707) 552-6482

msmith@mitacademy.org

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Urban; Enrollment: 427; Grade Levels: 6-8; School Schedule: Seven-period modified block schedule, 48-minute advisory period on Wednesday. Four days per week 30 minute ED_RTI for enrichment and intervention. Late start on Friday once per month for collaboration.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

3% Asian, 20% African American, 20% Filipino, 44% Hispanic, 1% Pacific Islander, 11% White, 2% Other; 60% Free/Reduced Lunch; 7% English Learners.

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS AND REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- School culture focused on equity and college-going with advisory offering early college awareness and college tours while academic courses emphasize skills needed for high school and college success.
- Multiple levels of academic support are offered including: Math Workshop, System 44, Read 180, after-school tutoring, "Middle School Intervention Workshop," and RTI block.
- Academic challenge is offered through differentiation, accessing on-campus high school courses, Plato on-line courses, and more than a dozen Solano Community College courses held on campus.
- A summer booster course is offered in English/math for students not successfully completing these courses in middle school. Likewise, a summer "Jump Start" course is offered for in-coming 6th grade students.
- AVID strategies such as WICOR and Cornell Notes are used across the curriculum.
- The school provides direct instruction in a suite of technology skills and students have 1:1 computers in every class.
- Mare Island Technology professional learning communities moderate curriculum and conduct common formative assessments every two weeks utilizing a variety of assessment strategies and performance tasks.
- Standards-based grading is raising both teacher and student understanding of standards.
- Staff are supported by five days of new teacher orientation, which includes collaborative time with faculty mentors, BTSA mentors, and coaching with optional peer observation.
- Students are directly taught management skills. All 6th graders take "College Readiness," which teaches age-appropriate AVID study and organizational skills that are required in every class.
- In advisory students engage in college and career exploration and visit at least one college campus.
- An afterschool program is offered until 6:00 every day during which students can participate in sports, tutoring, clubs, and a myriad of enrichment opportunities.
- Throughout the school year, all teachers attend professional development once a month for ninety minutes focused on reform efforts and individual/group needs.