



## 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).



### INDIO MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### Designated 2018

Desert Sands Unified School District

Riverside County

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#### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Suburban Magnet School; Enrollment: 795; Grade Levels: 6-8; School Schedule:

Rotating seven period day schedule with blocked ELA and math/science classes and an early release day each Wednesday for staff development and collaboration.

#### SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

Free/Reduced lunch: 94%; English Learners: 39%

#### REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- Students are supported by structured intervention classes in ELA and math, small in-class intervention groups, summer academy, ASES after school program, paraprofessionals and AVID tutors, and after school support/tutoring in the library.
- Staff focusing on school-wide instructional practices such as: structured conversations, Kagan structures, WICOR strategies, thinking maps and EL strategies supports the rigor of reading and writing in all subjects.
- Teachers support new teachers through the “teachers teaching teachers” program by hosting mini-professional development sessions to teach all school-wide strategies to new staff. Direct instruction, collaborative groups, student engagement, and integrated technology are among the school-wide practices emphasized.
- In addition to more traditional common assessments, benchmarks and summative assessments, document-based questions are completed quarterly in social studies and ELA and math have end of module performance task assessments to monitor student progress.
- Teachers are provided with both formal and informal opportunities to collaborate. In addition to scheduled collaboration time, teachers in a common department and grade level have common prep period and their classrooms are situated near each other to facilitate interaction.
- Teachers also benefit from an instructional coach on site and the ability to conduct peer observations.
- Although English language learners are enrolled in math/science core classes and general electives, they receive extra support from an ELD teacher and a paraprofessional during ELD and math/science instruction respectively.
- In addition to a traditional elective program offering such courses as AVID, band, journalism or technology, students have the opportunity to follow a pre-med career pathway from grade six through grade eight.
- Faculty have been trained in the “Boys Town Model of Successful Schools,” and with the school support staff provide a counseling/discipline program based on restorative justice. In addition, the three and a half hour after school program provides parent workshops, tutoring, guidance, sports and enrichment activities.