

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.



TORCH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Designated in 2008, Re-Designated in 2012, 2017

Bassett Unified School District

Los Angeles County

Monica Murray, Principal

751 Vineland Avenue, City of Industry, CA 90241

Phone: (626) 931-2700

bassettusd.org/Domain/12

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Community: Industrial, Urban; Enrollment: 611; Grade Levels: 6-8; School Schedule: Six period Modified Block schedule with Student Advisement/Intervention period four days per week.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

96% Hispanic; 2% Asian; 1% Filipino; 1% White. 95% Free/Reduced lunch. 30% English Learners.

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS AND REPLICABLE PRACTICES

- All teacher teams trained by the Buck Institute collaborate to incorporate a project-based, backwards designed learning model utilizing technology and focusing on literacy instruction in all disciplines.
- "Torch Time" offered four days per week for 45 minutes at the end of the day provides opportunities for intervention, acceleration and enrichment, and opportunities to explore careers. Students needing additional support also benefit from differentiation, AVID, after school tutoring, Saturday Support and EL/SDAIE specialized instruction.
- Torch offers opportunities for students to examine different career pathways including: STEM Pathway (Automation and Robotics), VAPA (Art, Band, Drama), Leadership Pathway (Yearbook ASB, and community projects), and World Language Pathway (learning a second language).
- Carol Dweck's Growth Mindset is taught in the first six weeks of Torch Time, teaching students "how their brains work," the difference between a growth and a fixed mindset, and how to develop their potential.
- Focusing on college and career readiness, Torch has committed to using AVID strategies schoolwide such as: organizational skills, reading comprehension strategies, writing skills, inquiry, and collaboration skills.
- All students have access to technology through iPads, laptops or the computer lab. Students also have access to a well-stocked library and in-class libraries, and media centers rich with computer programs, trade books, novels and videos.
- Teachers have the opportunity to attend weekly technology-based trainings, Project Based Learning planning sessions, Mathematical Practice trainings, and other content area trainings offered by the school/district.