

Cerritos Elementary School Model Programs and Practices

School Information

CDS (County District School) Code: 19642126068274

County: Los Angeles

District (Local Educational Agency): ABC Unified

School: Cerritos Elementary School

Demographics

Enrollment: 673 students

Location Description: Suburban

Title I Funded: No

School Calendar: Traditional

Charter: No

Overview

Cerritos Elementary School, located in the city of Cerritos, serves 673 students in grades kindergarten through six on a traditional calendar system. We have a wonderfully diverse learning environment recognized as a California Distinguished School in 2008 and 2014 and a Gold Ribbon School in 2016. Our learning community is dedicated to ensuring the academic success of every student and providing a safe and comprehensive educational experience.

Cerritos Elementary School has an ongoing tradition of academic excellence. Our diligent, caring staff is skilled and dedicated to ensuring the success of our students. We believe that each child is unique and deserving of a rich educational experience suited to his/her needs. Every one of our students receives a comprehensive, balanced curriculum based on the California State Standards. We have over 100 English Learners each year and re-designate over 20% of them annually with the support of our EL staff. We offer in-school intervention for those who need extra support as well as quality RSP and Speech services. Our full time Wellness Coordinator works hard to meet the social and emotional needs of our students.

Our parents are incredibly supportive and have a strong partnership with our staff. Field trips, assemblies, and other activities are funded by our very supportive PTA. The Cerritos Elementary Education Foundation (CEEF) provides additional funds which support programs such as choral music, computer lab, Meet the Masters, and Science on the Go.

Students participate weekly in choral music, library, and computer lab rotations. Enrichment and extra-curricular activities also include Student Leadership, Cerritos Academy (after school and summer programs), track team, an award winning Math Olympiad program, Reading Olympics, and musical productions. An afterschool tutoring service operates on campus and provides scholarships to qualified students.

Cerritos Elementary is a school community where the highest expectations are maintained. We utilize all available resources to enable students to become life-long learners who possess the ability to achieve their utmost potential. We promote a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment in which parents and community members are encouraged to become immersed in their student's educational endeavors. Cerritos Elementary is proud to participate in the nationally recognized PeaceBuilders and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programs to ensure the emotional and physical safety and well-being of our students.

Model Program and Practices

Name of Model Program/Practice: Integrating Technology to Accelerate Learning

Length of Model Program/Practice: 2–4 years

Target Area(s): Closing the Achievement Gap, Professional Development, Use of Technology

Target Population(s): American Indian, Asian, Black or African American, Filipino, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, White, Two or More Races, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, English Learners, Students with Disabilities

Strategies Used: Small Learning Communities, Data-Driven Decision Making, Professional Development, Implementation of Academic Standards Basics (Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities)

Description

We recognize the importance of technology in preparing our students for the future. In 2015 our district created the Technology Integration Project (TIP) to provide teachers and students the tools and training to transform their classrooms into 21st century learning environments.

This fits in perfectly with our vision at Cerritos Elementary School to prepare students for a productive life in the 21st century. Technology is an important key in this goal and we are committed to continually moving forward with integrating technology throughout the curriculum to accelerate learning.

The implementation of TIP included funds for student devices, improved infrastructure, professional development, and technical support. Using the district TIP as the foundation, Cerritos Elementary School has committed additional resources from our site budget, PTA, and CEEF to accelerate and supplement the integration of technology for our students.

The sharing of technology integration ideas and strategies to enhance student achievement takes place regularly at weekly collaboration grade level meetings, staff meetings, and TIP meetings. These have included:

- Utilizing the digital quick check and topic assignments in Pearson Math using Chromebooks rather than paper/pencil enables all problems to be graded instantly with feedback available to the teacher on how many students correctly answered each problem.
- Utilizing Google Classroom and Apps to compose and edit documents digitally allows for easy collaboration on projects for peer editing, faster and easier teacher feedback, and increased organizational tools for developing writers.
- Student research tools are now readily available and instant. Projects in social studies and science are enhanced with increased research resources through the use of Hyperdocs. Project based learning allows students to utilize problem solving strategies focused on essential questions and students are able to digitally share their projects through online platforms such as Padlet and Flipgrid. For example, 4th grade mission projects now include extensive photos and facts related to each mission and students are challenged to create their own 22nd mission based on geography and available resources.
- The Wonders language arts curriculum is heavily embedded with technology activities that promote critical thinking and reading for a purpose. Teacher tools include immediate, leveled re-teaching and targeted assignments for individuals and small groups, tracks progress in key literacy skills and standards, and a variety of instant reports.
- BrainPop, MobyMax, and Flocabulary are some examples of educational websites that we have subscribed to that have thousands of resources ranging from educational rap songs to short videos covering all subject areas and individualized lessons geared towards each student.

By utilizing these tools, along with many others, student learning time is optimized and learning is accelerated.

Implementation and Monitoring

In 2015 Cerritos Elementary made the decision to begin the Technology Integration Project (TIP) in 4th grade and purchased five Chromebook carts, one for each 4th grade classroom and one to share for grades 5 and 6. Our 4th grade team, including TIP Teacher Leader Nancy Lee, participated in professional development that included district training, team sharing (Ester Kim, Lisa Legayada, Lisa Whisler), support from the technology assistant (Maha Sadras), and attending technology conferences that allowed our teachers to discover and try new ideas. The learning curve was steep but our team embraced the challenge and made huge strides in integrating technology on a daily basis.

Realizing that this group of 4th graders would be continuing TIP the following year, we began in the Spring to prepare our 5th grade team (Deanna Jayasinghe, Michael Soto, Amanda Sparks, and Stephanie Watson) with the tools they needed to seamlessly continue daily integrated technology. At the beginning of TIP Year 2 (2016–17) five more Chromebook carts were purchased (district TIP funds, PTA, and Cerritos Elementary Education Foundation—CEEF) allowing us to have a Chromebook for every 4th and 5th grader. The incoming fourth grade students were excited to begin TIP while the fifth graders were demonstrating their increased proficiencies in using technology.

Professional development continued and in the Spring we began to prepare the 6th grade team (Jaime Chan, Gina Clayton-Tarvin, Erika Cook, Ivy Love) for the next year. This current year (2017–18) we purchased three more Chromebook carts (TIP funds, PTA, CEEF) and now have one cart for every 4th–6th grade classroom plus two carts to share between our three 3rd grade classes. Our kindergarten, first and second grade teams each have one iPad cart to share with their grade level.

Teachers and students regularly use technology throughout each day utilizing programs and tools that include G-Suite (Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Forms, Google Calendar, etc.) Flocabulary, BrainPop, Wonders, Pearson, PearDeck, FlipGrid, Padlet and others. Project Based Learning and research opportunities are increased and student work can be more individualized and differentiated in content and pace, including GATE students and those who need to be challenged. Communication is improved between teacher and students and parents through Google Classroom and email. Students are better prepared for the annual CAASPP assessments as they are more familiar with their device and the tools available, they have more opportunities to take practice exams, and there is increased flexibility of scheduling during the testing window.

Teachers have ongoing opportunities for professional learning to integrate technology in the classroom by attending conferences and district trainings as well as share ideas with colleagues. This, along with the weekly support of our Technical Assistant, Ian McDonnell, continues to be important resources for success.

Results and Outcomes

Cerritos Elementary School has placed in the blue range for both English Language Arts and Mathematics for "All Students" and "English Learners" on the Fall 2017 California Dashboard.

Overall school CAASPP scores for the previous two years in English Language Arts remained stable at 82% in both 2015–16 and 2016–17. In grades where TIP was implemented, growth was seen in every ELA sub-area when comparing the same group of students from one year to the next.

TIP Year 2: 4th graders scored 76% in overall ELA (an increase of 2% from the previous year's third grade scores (same students)).

These students showed growth in Reading (+10%), Writing (+17%), Listening (+8%), and Research/Inquiry (+11%).

TIP Year 2: 5th graders scored 88% in overall ELA (an increase of 4% from the previous year's fourth grade scores (same students)). These students showed growth in Reading (+6%), Writing (+9%), Listening (+6%), and Research/Inquiry (+16%).

Overall school CAASPP scores for the previous two years in Math remained stable at 75%

The Chronic Absenteeism rate dropped from 3.6% in 2015–16 to 1.3% in 2016–17.

The English Learner proficiency rate increased from 73% in 2015–16 to 78% in 2016–17.

The English Learner re-designation rate increased from 18.6% in 2015–16 to 44% in 2016–17.

In addition to district TIP funds, Cerritos Elementary School has been able to provide every teacher and classroom with a laptop, projector, and document camera to enhance and support the integration of technology. We recently purchased our 17th classroom cart (three iPad carts and 14 Chromebook carts) for our 24 classrooms and we plan on being 1:1 with student devices by the year 2020. We also have a 38 unit computer lab staffed with a full time instructor that is used for technology standards instruction and project based learning.

As mentioned previously, the learning curve for teachers integrating technology was steep. With a strong commitment to professional learning and collaboration, our teachers continue to grow each year in their ability to find the optimum balance between utilizing technology, paper/pencil, and books to maximize learning. This, coupled with the increased communication between parents and teachers through Google Classroom and email has been an incredibly positive experience. Our students are well prepared with a strong foundation of technological skills to continue their development as 21st Century learners.