

Monterey Vista Elementary School Model Programs and Practices

School Information

CDS (County District School) Code: 19645506013585

County: Los Angeles

District (Local Educational Agency): Garvey Elementary

School: Monterey Vista Elementary School

Demographics

Enrollment: 488 students

Location Description: Suburban

Title I Funded: Yes

Type of Program: School-wide

School Calendar: Traditional

Charter: No

Overview

Monterey Vista Elementary School is located in the City of Monterey Park and one of 8 elementary schools in the Garvey School District. The enrollment consists of 488 students in 20 regular education classes from Kindergarten through 6th grade including 2 Head Start classes. The student body includes diverse ethnic backgrounds with 65 % Asian American (Chinese, Cambodian, and Vietnamese), 33 % Latino and 1% Filipino, White and African American. Even with the challenges of a high percentage of linguistically diverse and socio-economically disadvantage students, the school is committed to providing quality programs and services to assist all students in meeting or exceeding grade level standards. Monterey Vista is a high achieving school whose SBAC scores is the highest among the 8 elementary schools in the Garvey School District. We have earned the Title I Academic Award School six times since 2003, California Distinguished School in 2004 and 2014 and National Blue Ribbon School in 2004. We are ranked 513 out of 5,650 elementary schools in California.

Monterey Vista offers a challenging core curriculum that focuses on the common core standards that meets the needs of our very diverse student population. Students benefit from a variety of enrichment and supplementary programs including before and after school programs, summer school, Glee Club, Bell Choir, and VAPA classes. Supplemental programs used include Excel Math, Study Island, vocabulary.com, Whoo's Reading and Reading Counts.

The effort and dedication from Monterey Vista teachers and staff have made the school a quality place where learning occurs. The staff is proud of our students' high test scores, and yet they view this as only a fraction of Monterey Vista's successes. The entire staff also want to brag about the positive, warm, loving and safe environment that is conducive to learning present throughout the school. The staff believe in educating and shaping the whole child as our ever present goal.

Parents are very supportive of the school as shown through their active participation in a variety of school, social, cultural, academic and volunteer activities. Local businesses, school district and outside agencies also lend support in helping students meet and exceed common core standards. There is a strong commitment and partnership among all stakeholders to help and ensure every child to succeed. All of these components contribute to a winning Monterey Vista Team as demonstrated in our achievement.

Model Program and Practices

Name of Model Program/Practice: Collaboration

Length of Model Program/Practice: 8+ years

Target Area(s): Education Supports, Use of Technology

Target Population(s): Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, English Learners

Strategies Used: School Climate, Data-Driven Decision Making, Implementation of Academic Standards Basics (Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities)

Description

Monterey Vista ranks 513 out of 5,650 elementary schools in California, placing it in the top 9%. This is a school with 74% economically disadvantaged students. Monterey Vista has been awarded California Distinguished School in 2004 and 2014.

There are many factors that directly contribute to the achievement of this school. Monterey Vista has a clear and shared focus. All stakeholders which include all school staff, parents, and students are aware of this focus from which goals are developed. They understand the role they play in the fulfillment of these goals. When Monterey Vista Leadership Team develops goals and areas of focus for each school year, it is with input from all stakeholders. Goals are developed with the focus on the whole child

and are not limited to academics. They are developed from common beliefs and values which set the direction for curriculum implementation, and educational programs and practices.

Monterey Vista sets high standards and expectations for students. This stems from our belief that all students can learn and can meet high standards. While some students face challenges, these challenges are not seen as an excuse to expect less of them. They are provided with support services in the form of interventions such as small group intensive explicit instruction which takes place during the school day. All students are offered access to a rigorous curriculum.

The culture of this school is one of collaboration and communication. Teamwork exists among teachers across all grade levels, as well as with other school staff. Everybody is involved and connected to each other including parents and community members. Consistent communication exists in identifying problems and working through solutions.

Monterey Vista is known for its supportive learning environment. This is described as one that is safe, civil, healthy and intellectually stimulating. Students feel respected and connected with the staff and are engaged in learning. Instruction is personalized to meet the needs of all students in small learning environments.

Monterey Vista believes in the importance of focused professional development that goes beyond what the district provides. Teachers assist and train other teachers. Training occurs informally, and formally during PLC and staff meetings. Emphasis of professional development is based on staff area of need and is aligned with the school's vision and objectives. These include training in the implementation of NGSS, learning the newly implemented EADMS program for assessments and data, and Google classroom. This is done with the intent to provide all teachers the access and tools they need to provide their students with a quality 21st century education.

Lastly, our school believes in the value of family and community involvement. All stakeholders have a responsibility to educate students, not just teachers and school staff, and are held accountable for their role in this effort.

Implementation and Monitoring

The district provides state adopted curriculum, a supplemental program in the form of iReady, and district assessments to monitor program effectiveness and student performance.

Monterey Vista goes above and beyond this. Aside from district provided curriculum. Monterey Vista utilizes a variety of research based supplementary programs. In addition, teachers develop in class assessments to determine program effectiveness and monitor student performance. Curriculum, instruction and classroom assessments are all aligned with common core standards. Research based teaching strategies and materials are used. Supplemental programs that support curriculum are utilized school wide for consistency. Such programs include iReady, Reading Counts, and Excel Math.

In the upper grades, teachers also use Study Island, Whoos Reading and Vocab.com. Technology is incorporated into every aspect of instruction.

In the implementation of core curriculum, Monterey Vista believes in the practice of team teaching. Students are placed in flexible groups based on their specific strengths and needs. Students are made aware of the Depth of Knowledge levels and how to express their thinking and defend their reasoning. Teachers consciously design instruction and assessments to incorporate activities that focus on higher level thinking which goes beyond curriculum provided by the district. The choice of intervention programs and strategies is based on data derived from multiple measures.

Every program implemented at this school focuses on the needs of our students. When the district offered Code to the Future, we felt having constraints of a fixed program would not meet our students' needs. Code to the Future had their own rigid requirements as to the implementation and monitoring of the program. It was also very costly. At Monterey Vista, we decided on better use of resources, still focus on coding but utilize Code.org instead. Code.org is a free program and allowed us the flexibility to adjust the program to suit the needs of our students and still implement with fidelity.

Monterey Vista believes in frequent monitoring of learning and teaching. Multiple assessment tools which include district assessments, supplemental program assessments, classroom assessments, and teacher observations provide data which is consistently analyzed during PLC and staff meetings. Data is utilized in identifying specific students with specific needs as well as students who have attained proficiency in grade level standards so that they may be provided instruction that deepens and broadens their knowledge. For student who have been identified as non-proficient, additional support and instructional time is provided during the school day as well as before or after regular school hours. Data analysis drives instruction. Teaching is adjusted based on student progress and needs. Assessment data is used to focus and improve instructional programs.

Results and Outcomes

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) results achieved by the Garvey School District for the last two years have surpassed the State of California's proficiency mark by an average of 8% in language arts and 14% in math. Monterey Vista's results outperform the district's substantially. In 2016, Monterey Vista had 67% of their students reach the level of proficiency in language arts (38% exceeded + 29% met), compared to the 57% (29% exceeded +28% met) of the elementary schools in the Garvey School District (which includes Monterey Vista's scores). For math, Monterey Vista, achieved an aptitude of 75% proficiency (46% exceeded + 21% met, our scores included). In 2017, our statistics improved even more. For language arts, we obtained our highest marks, 72% proficiency (47% exceeded + 25% met) unmatched by Garvey's 57% (28% exceeded + 29% met, our scores included). These excellent results were paralleled in math reaching 76% (54% exceeded + 22% met) with Garvey managing 52% (31% exceeded + 21% met, our scores included). According to the California Department of

Education, in 2016, Monterey Vista was ranked 801 out of 5,621 elementary schools in California. In 2017, the rankings progressed to 513 out of 5,650 California schools.

With a population of less than 500 students, the 20 dedicated educators come with an average of at least 20 years of experience in the profession (the most is 35 and the least is 13). Because of the fact that most teachers teach the same grade level for many years, we completely understand grade specific common core expectations and how these relate to other grade levels' standards. We are able to design guaranteed viable curriculum and instruction focusing on Depth of Knowledge. We are also able to design instruction to meet students' individual learning styles. Having had many years of experience teaching the same grade level allowed us to attain a level of expertise and yet to continually evolve and grow as educators. The expertise has proven beneficial in considering programs and resources needed with the understanding and ideas that support a positive learning environment. Having experienced teachers on our staff, we are able to connect and help each other create and maintain a strong school community.

In addition to experience, our teachers pride themselves with trust. There is transparency with our successes and failures. We challenge each other to do the best we can do to promote growth in students as evidenced by multiple measures. We work together to analyze program effectiveness as evidenced by data and make necessary changes to improve our programs. Our school also focus on closing the achievement gap within subgroups and within subject areas specifically math and language arts. Lastly, we work together and share ideas in developing instruction and intervention programs and exhaust all available resources to ensure our students succeed.