

## **Monte Vista Elementary School Model Programs and Practices**

### **School Information**

CDS (County District School) Code: 19645686013783

County: Los Angeles

District (Local Educational Agency): Glendale Unified

School: Monte Vista Elementary School

### **Demographics**

Enrollment: 820 students

Location Description: Suburban

Title I Funded: No

School Calendar: Traditional

Charter: No

### **Overview**

Nestled at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, Monte Vista Elementary School is known for excellence, an involved parent community, and enrichment opportunities which enhance the social, emotional and academic development of students. A California Distinguished School (2004, 2012) and a National Blue Ribbon School (2005), Monte Vista was most recently awarded California Gold Ribbon School (2016).

Continuing a legacy of community, generations of local families have attended Monte Vista and support the school by participating in traditional events such as the Family Picnic, Carnival and Project Night-Science Fair. Monte Vista has an active and involved Parent Teacher Association (PTA). A robust budget which provides technology, on-site field trips, and fine arts programs. Parent and community volunteers give thousands of hours each month as docents in the art program, helpers in the classroom, and members of the School Site Council (SSC). An extensive offering of afterschool enrichment classes allows for students to further develop skills beyond the core curriculum.

Monte Vista has a culturally diverse student body which includes speakers of varied languages including Korean, Armenian, Spanish, Mandarin and Arabic; 140 students are designated English Language Learners (ELL) and 29 students receive special education support in our Specialized Academic Instruction program (SAI) and/or speech. All special needs students, along with kindergarten inclusion, participate in general education classrooms with varying levels of support. Currently 77 students in grades 4–6 are identified as Gifted and Talented (GATE).

Monte Vista proudly provides a K–6 Korean Dual Language program with 298 students participating. The program is a 50/50 model which, in addition to second language acquisition, provides schoolwide cultural experiences through music, art and literature.

The Monte Vista teaching staff is highly qualified and teachers go above and beyond to ensure all students reach their potential. Expectations for student achievement and citizenship are consistent and high. Classroom and afterschool programs provide intervention for students who have not gained proficiency. For those who require additional support, the Student Success Team (SST) convenes to devise strategies and solutions. The Monte Vista community embraces the visual and performing arts as an integral part of every student's education. PTA funds a recorder program, primary music, and Meet the Masters. A well-developed instrumental music program includes a subgroup, Monty's Masters, which practices before school. Talent Show and Reflections art program are other examples where artistic endeavors are showcased. A strong focus on technology is evident as students research, develop Powerpoint presentations and documents with PTA, district and site purchased chromebooks. Monte Vista is a rich, diverse community dedicated to fostering development of the whole child as a 21st century learner.

## **Model Program and Practices**

Name of Model Program/Practice: 21st Century Learning: Guidance, Growth, and Grit

Length of Model Program/Practice: 2–4 years

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

Target Population(s): Asian, Hispanic, White, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, English Learners, Students with Disabilities

Strategies Used: School Climate, Small Learning Communities, Parent Engagement, Data-Driven Decision Making, Social/Emotional/Behavioral Support, Professional Development

## **Description**

Monte Vista 21st Century Learning is anchored by the following principles: Guidance, Growth and Grit. This is reflected in our everyday practice and schoolwide goals.

Assessment tools are in place to monitor progress and meet academic goals through the consistent use of formative and summative data. The PLC process allows teachers to collaborate as a grade level to collect and review data to plan targeted instruction. Inherent to our practice, intervention not only involves the traditional model of small group instruction, but includes pull-out with administration, the use of technology, and additional support to individual students that go beyond the school day.

The PTA provides supplemental learning experiences for enrichment. On-site field trips in science and social studies enhance the core curriculum. Students benefit from a K–3 physical education teacher and extra library support to build literacy. After school programs in chess, robotics, drama, and language are offered to all students.

The FLAG program develops bilingualism/biliteracy, academic achievement, and cross-cultural competency. Instruction in both English and Korean allows students to develop high levels of language proficiency and literacy and think more creatively and critically. Participants in FLAG gain insight into Korean culture and seek opportunities to share its history, traditions and customs through performances and cross-grade level interchange.

With a technology lab, learners have frequent access to reinforcement programs, such as iReady Reading and Math, along with research, report writing, collaborative documents, and assignment submission. Problem-solving prowess, a necessity to all disciplines of knowledge, is enhanced by online coding sessions supported by teachers, technology staff, and parents with expertise.

Monte Vista offers a fine arts program which includes primary singing, introduction to note reading through the use of recorders and musical theater. The Monte Vista Orchestra program retains the highest number of participating students throughout GUSD. Students learn about master artists through our Meet the Masters program and have art projects to reflect on their own understanding of the genre.

Students are taught in a classroom environment that promotes acceptance, individuality, and cooperation. Collaboration is encouraged within all academic domains, with an emphasis on listening and speaking. Students are instructed in ways to give feedback using respectful, academic language demonstrating a tolerance of differences. Ongoing professional development for all staff is in place and students are coached in how to recognize bullying and promote kindness.

With limited discretionary funds, novel ways to assess, provide intervention, and support teachers in the PLC process are continuously being sought. The Monte Vista school community is committed to reaching each student and nurturing his or her potential.

### **Implementation and Monitoring**

The Monte Vista staff values communication and collaboration with all stakeholders as essential components for the implementation and monitoring of the school program. Aspects of 21st Century Learning are shared with parents regularly at monthly PTA

meetings, School Site Council (SSC), and through the weekly e-newsletter, Paw Prints. The implementation and monitoring of 21st Century Learning follows the GUSD LCAP priorities, yet distinguishes itself by achieving and surpassing goals set by teachers and administrators.

Monte Vista provides guidance toward academic and social excellence for all stakeholders. Staff uses a variety of tools to guide progress towards 21st Century Learning for all students. They participate in professional development in the area of PLC work which focuses on review of summative and formative data to set goals, plan next steps for instruction, identify students performing below grade level, and create intervention opportunities. Administration conducts weekly informal classroom observations and gives specific feedback to teachers to guide instruction. In addition, end of year one-to-one meetings between administration and teaching staff allows for personal reflection and goal-setting in a supportive atmosphere. Teachers select “focus students” in need of personal connection to establish relationships by making daily intentional interactions. Presentations to support parents have focused on topics such as 40 Developmental Assets, Common Core Math, Developing Bilingualism/Biliteracy and the Korean Alphabet.

Grit and growth are highlighted in a variety of ways. Teacher expertise is enhanced through conferences in the areas of PLC, Gender Spectrum, technology, and classroom management. Teachers bring back a wealth of knowledge from these professional growth opportunities to help promote high expectations in the classroom. Student grit and growth are also supported. Administration acknowledges progress through individualized feedback to students on their report cards as well as leaving positive notes during informal classroom visits. Bulletin boards are devoted to exemplary student work across all genre and content areas. Teachers select both Student of the Month and Principal Pals to celebrate successes. Technology has been expanded through the purchase of additional Chromebooks using site and PTA funds. Our current mobile device to student ratio of 2.5:1 exceeds district standard. Intervention teachers provide support in reading for students in grades K–6 who perform below grade level. Intervention at Monte Vista distinguishes itself in two model practices. Students are pulled in small group format, led by administrators, to target needs where intervention funds are not available. Administration provides classroom coverage for teachers to allow collaboration time within the school day.

21st Century Learning, focused on guidance, growth and grit, is practiced daily with outstanding results for all students.

## **Results and Outcomes**

21st Century Learning at Monte Vista has resulted in outcomes that have continuously exceeded district and state scores. According to the 2017 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) data, Monte Vista performed at a Very High level in English Language Arts (ELA), 73.5 points above level 3, and Mathematics, 63.5 points above level 3. From 2016, there was an increase of 4.7 points in ELA and a significant increase of 15.2 points in Mathematics. The percentage of students who met

or exceeded grade level standards in ELA was 82.48% and in Mathematics, 79.79%. All subgroups performed Very High in ELA with the following points being above level 3: Socio-Economically Disadvantaged (SED) subgroup scored 59.9 points above, Hispanic subgroup scored 48.2 points above, White subgroup scored 67.7 points above and Asian subgroup scored 81.9 points above. In Math, all but one subgroup scored Very High with the following points being above level 3: SED scored 43 points above, White subgroup scored 50.5 points above and Asian subgroup scored 77.7 points above level 3. The Hispanic subgroup scored 28.1 points above level 3 with a status of High. In FLAG, over 83% of students tested met or exceeded standards in ELA and current 4th and 5th graders scored over 92% in Math.

The iReady assessment serves as a snapshot of student progress in both Reading and Math. From September 2016 to May 2017, there was an increase of 31% of students scoring on or above grade level in Math, from 56% to 87%. In Reading, 64% were on or above grade level in September 2016 and 86% in May 2017, a gain of 22%.

Monte Vista assesses the progress of English Learners (EL) through CAASPP and CELDT (California English Language Development Test) results. In 2017, ELs scored Very High on the ELA portion of CAASPP (50.3 points above level 3) and Very High in Math (52.3 points above level 3). The goal is for 100% of ELs to achieve one level of growth each year. During the past two years, Monte Vista ELs have made significant progress in language development. During the 2015–16 school year, 77.9% of EL students made progress in acquiring English. In 2016–17, 92.3% of our ELs showed growth. In addition, our redesignation rate in 2016–17 was 13.9%, higher than the state average of 11.9%. Monte Vista is committed to the use of data to guide instruction.

The Monte Vista staff monitors social and emotional growth as well. Teachers select a focus student and note actions taken in order to connect and support. Student concerns are shared at SST meetings and, utilizing a team approach, suggestions and ideas are given to provide Tier 1 level support. Students with more serious behavioral concerns meet with the school psychologist in social groups. Teachers make time before, during, and after school and keep connections with former students. Due to the concerted effort by all staff, Monte Vista's suspension rate is noted as Very Low, 0.1% on the California Dashboard.