

K. L. Carver Elementary School Model Programs and Practices

School Information

CDS (County District School) Code: 19649646022495

County: Los Angeles

District (Local Educational Agency): San Marino Unified

School: K. L. Carver Elementary School

Demographics

Enrollment: 622 students

Location Description: Suburban

Title I Funded: No

School Calendar: Traditional

Charter: No

Overview

K.L. Carver Elementary School was founded in 1947 on the site is where San Marino High School stands today. It opened its doors in 1948 as a K–3 school with two classes at each grade level. It is named after Kaufman Lowell Carver, who served as a San Marino School Board member for 19 years, 13 years of which he was president (1932–1945). He supervised rehabilitation of the schools after the 1933 earthquake. Carver's interest in the community went beyond the schools as he helped establish the Public Library and the Woman's Club.

In 1950, five acres of land were purchased from Mr. Ishizu of Sunnyslope Gardens for the purpose of building a new elementary school on the east side of town. Since the property was in the county area, it was annexed by the city of San Marino to ensure fire and police service.

Carver PTA was established in 1948 and has grown alongside Carver School to become a crucial partner of the school. Without the funds raised by the PTA and the commitment of our volunteers, many enrichment programs that our students currently

enjoy would otherwise not be available. Currently, Carver PTA funds the Computer Lab Director, three part-time librarians, a part-time art teacher, a part-time nurse, a part-time P.E. aide, and a part-time director for the Curriculum Lab. In addition, it funds music education, recorder instruction and a before-school choral program. Lastly, it funds all family programs, cultural arts programs, and all technology, art, science and library supplies, as well as most of the books in the library. During 2004–2006 Carver PTA also undertook a special campus beautification and safety effort, in part funding a new entrance sign, the replacement of the old chain link fence along Huntington Drive with a new decorative iron fence, as well as the paving of the parking lot on San Gabriel Blvd. to complement the completion of all construction at Carver.

In recognition of the hard work and commitment of our volunteers, in 1975 Carver PTA established the Golden Nugget Award to recognize and honor parents, friends, and teachers who have made an outstanding contribution to the youth of K.L. Carver School. Additional recognition is given to Carver's volunteers through the San Marino PTA Council's Honorary Service Award for exceptional service to the community, as well as through the Mr. Carver Award.

Another vital organization on the Carver campus is the K.L. Carver Enrichment Fund, a goal-based fundraising organization not affiliated to PTA or other entities, whose entire proceeds from paper Scrip and registered families on e-Scrip benefit Carver School. Its work thus far has primarily funded improvement of playground facilities for Carver students, as well as critical equipment for the teachers' workroom such as the copy machine.

Model Program and Practices

Name of Model Program/Practice: STEM

Length of Model Program/Practice: Less than 2 years

Target Area(s): Closing the Achievement Gap, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, 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: School Climate, Small Learning Communities, Parent Engagement, Data-Driven Decision Making, Health Support, Social/Emotional/Behavioral Support, Professional Development, Implementation of Academic Standards Basics (Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities)

Description

At K. L. Carver School, we are shifting the paradigm on teaching Science and Technology through STEM. The model in delivering NGSS through STEM occurs in three ways: NGSS through the ELA adoption; NGSS through trainer-of-trainer model; and NGSS through STEM coteaching.

Implementation and Monitoring

Although our ELA adoption covers the implementation of NGSS with language arts units on Life Science, Earth Science, Physical Science, and Technology and Society, our school is going above and beyond by partnering with UCLA to provide the trainer-of-trainer model of professional development on STEM and NGSS. All teachers have received professional development on English Language Arts in our textbooks adoption last year. With UCLA's CenterX trainings, a lead teacher from each grade level receives additional training on the best practices of delivering 3-Dimensional NGSS pedagogy. The lead teachers return from their trainings to provide coaching to their grade level teams. Moreover, we have pooled our resources and hired a fully credentialed, STEM teacher to co-teach with each teacher on a rotation basis, providing direct hands-on implementation of NGSS.

Results and Outcomes

Students have never been more engaged in project-based learning of Science and Technology. The California missions school project went from cutting and gluing cardboard boxes to plastic models fabricated on 3D printers. For example, the 4th Grade Team is piloting the integrated use of 3D printers into 4th grade teaching and learning. The delivery of a unit of California's history is incorporated with the mathematical and scientific thinking involved in the use of TinkerCAD, a 3D modeling software that empower students to use to express their creative minds. Kindergarten students are sketching their designs on the iPads, learning to extrude into 3D and then printing them out using the Carvey, a subtractive 3D printer that carves designs out of a block of wood. The school district's Maintenance and Operations department helped cut the wooden templates to size so each student may have their 3D creations be brought home to show off to their families.