

Endeavour School of Exploration Model Programs and Practices

School Information

CDS (County District School) Code: 36679180108449

County: San Bernardino

District (Local Educational Agency): Victor Elementary

School: Endeavour School of Exploration

Demographics

Enrollment: 700 students

Location Description: Suburban

Title I Funded: No

School Calendar: Traditional

Charter: No

Overview

Endeavour School of Exploration is located in the beautiful High Desert community of Spring Valley Lake, Victorville. It was opened in 2005 with the focus on creating an environment that would challenge students with rigorous academic content, promote the social and emotional growth of the whole child and instill high expectations for success. Endeavours model of Education through Exploration encourage students to be active participants in their education through inquiry-based learning, project-based learning, research and hands-on activities. In addition, students are immersed in Visual and Performing Arts, honing their 21st Century Skills and Community Outreach.

Endeavour currently has 700 students with a demographic of 43% Caucasian, 42% Hispanic, 7% African American, 5% Asian and 3% other. At Endeavour School of Exploration, students are able to explore their interests and inquire about their learning. Endeavour makes it a focus to use real- life scenarios and situations when exploring through education. Students participate in research projects, inquiry-based instruction, project-based learning and answer thought-provoking questions in all areas of the curriculum. Our students experiment, research and analyze rigorous hands-on lessons

while utilizing cutting edge technology. Students use the technology that is provided to them to explore 21st Century skills and career options. Students are also able to explore the creative arts; as they participate in the performing arts, music, dance, drama and Young Authors program, just to name a few. Endeavour students have fun while exploring their education and achieving academic success.

Education through Exploration is based upon students focusing on science, technology, engineering, arts, robotics, and math. Education through Exploration integrates concepts that are taught across all subject areas and emphasizes the application of knowledge to real-life situations.

Endeavour encourages our students to be global citizens. We have many extra curricular activities that promote the well being of all of our students. We participate in the 100 Mile Club, compete in Junior Olympics, VEX Robotics, Young Authors, Talent Show, Art Reflections, plays and productions. Endeavour students give back to community by volunteering at the Senior Citizens Home, Socktober, Food Drive, Kids Power Program (UNICEF), Toy Drive for the Loma Linda Children's Hospital, March of Dimes (March for the Babies) and supporting the local animal shelter by collecting donations.

With the implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support we have established school spirit and common expectations by modeling and rewarding positive behavior. Endeavour has maintained an environment of high academic expectations and standards, creative teaching practices, and addressing the social and emotional needs of our students. At Endeavour School of Exploration we take great pride in teaching to the whole child!

Model Program and Practices

Name of Model Program/Practice: Education through Exploration

Length of Model Program/Practice: 8+ years

Target Area(s): Parent, Family, and Community Involvement, Professional Development, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, Use of Technology, Visual and Performing Arts

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, Social/Emotional/Behavioral Support, Professional Development, Implementation of Academic Standards Basics (Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities)

Description

Endeavour School of Exploration enhances Victor Elementary School District's model by focusing on the whole child through the implementation of Education through Exploration. Students are able to explore their many interests and inquire about their learning. They are able to participate in research projects, inquiry-based instruction, and answer thought-provoking questions in all areas of the curriculum. Our students experiment, research and analyze rigorous hands-on lessons while utilizing cutting edge technology. They explore a variety of career options as they prepare for their future. Students explore their creativity as they participate in the visual and performing arts including music, dance, and drama. Education through Exploration allow students to have fun with learning while they achieve the highest of academic standards.

Endeavour School of Exploration was founded in 2005 with the intent of offering students an inquiry-based, hands-on, student-centered education while maintaining high academic expectations. This model was adopted in order to promote critical thinking skills and global awareness. Students are challenged and encouraged to become the best version of themselves. With support of the parents, students are able to become active participants in the community through various outreach programs which include: Lion's Club, Ronald McDonald Pop Top collection, food and sock drives for needy families and many more.

Promoting a clear mission and vision statement was and still is vital to the success of Endeavour School of Exploration. The vision statement was established by creating a leadership team one year prior to the schools opening with an emphasis on inquiry programs, based on the International Baccalaureate Schools. In an effort to become strong facilitators, all educators were inquiry-based trained on higher level questioning skills to drive learning. Project rooms, such as an art, science, computer lab, and theater prep area, were funded to ensure hands-on development of the curriculum. Over time, our site has adopted a one-to-one student Chromebook ratio, kindergarten to sixth grade. This gives our students equitable access to technology enabling them to explore the world around them through research.

Using the whole child model, teachers and staff work closely to ensure that they are meeting the individual academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs of all students. Endeavour's model of Education through Exploration encourages students to become highly engaged and take ownership of their education. In conjunction with PBIS, our model of teaching promotes student success and helps reduce behavioral issues, absenteeism, and suspensions.

Implementation and Monitoring

Endeavour is supported by a high level of parent involvement. Parents were involved in the initial planning of the school, as well as the hiring process. They have helped set the foundation for a culture of connectivity between home and school. Parent participation is vital to the success of Endeavour's Whole Child Model; out of 700 students, 450 parents/guardians are active volunteers. Each parent is scanned through RAPTOR and

has to attend Endeavour's safe campus\ volunteer training before they can volunteer. RAPTOR is a system that checks for crimes against children.

Connecting with the families of Endeavour is a key component to the success of our model of Education through Exploration. Several ways that the principal stays connected with the families are through weekly roto-calls with events and reminders for upcoming events and meetings and monthly meetings titled "Pastries with the Principal" to keep updated on school events.

Endeavour staff shares student success with families through various themed enrichment activities. Examples are: Community Helpers play, Johnny Appleseed Math Day, The Living Museum, Veterans' Day play, California History play, the Inquiry of the Revolutionary War, Genius Hour and VEX Robotics Competition. During Genius Hour students of all levels are empowered to explore their own passions.

Families are invited to celebrate their child's' achievements. In addition to newsletters and flyers, our staff uses a variety of electronic communications to keep families informed of their child academic success such as Remind, Bloomz, classdojo, websites, and email. Endeavour students participate in extracurricular activities coordinated by staff and/or parents. PTA runs 100 Mile Club, Reflections Art Program and Chess Club. Staff coordinate Junior Olympics, Talent Show, Young Authors and tutoring.

An annual survey that includes students, parents and guardians is used to assess the effectiveness of our program and the results show that families and students are highly satisfied. The results of the survey are 99.4% state that parents are given the opportunity to be part of their child's education, 98.8% feel informed of the goals and progress of their children, 98.8% say that Endeavour meets their child's academic needs, 97.5% clearly understand Endeavour's vision/goals for their child. Student survey results indicate that high academic expectations are clear and concise: 98.3% understand the expectations to "learn, improve and do (their) best every day, 97.3% give their best effort to be at or above grade level in all subjects, 94% talk with their teachers about how they are doing in class and understand the grades they have earned.

Using student survey results, Interim Assessment Blocks, ongoing formative assessments, and multimedia presentations, we are able to assess and guide instructional learning activities that focus on reaching all modalities of learners.

Results and Outcomes

Endeavour's model is successful because staff continuously reflects on data (summative and formative) in order to ensure student growth. Endeavour staff collaborates and discusses the previous year's outcomes to determine which changes/improvements should be made and implemented the following year. Assessment data (Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium, Interim Assessment Blocks, grade-level assessments) is consistently analyzed to identify needs and ensure high academic student achievement. The results drive our long range lesson planning

and modify our short term plans. Teachers are allocated an annual budget and encouraged to attend professional development that promotes continual growth.

Each Friday afternoon is dedicated to monitoring and assessing the results of our students through staff development, grade level SSTs, grade level collaboration, and vertical articulation. The quantitative assessments that drive our collaboration Fridays are STAR, Running Records, Pearson (Math), Educational Software Guided Instruction, ReadWorks, and Common Grade Level assessments. Teachers use observational anecdotes for qualitative data to encompass the understanding of the whole child.

Our SPSA is an example of how we are supporting the social-emotional needs of our students while maintaining high academic standards. Since 2010, Endeavour's attendance has remained over 96%. According to the California Dashboard Spring Data, we are blue and green in all areas. Our suspension rate has been reduced to 1.2% which is a decline of 0.3% since Fall 2017. Our Math scores have increased significantly +15.3 overall and our English Learners (EL) scores have increased significantly as well at +37.6. Endeavour's overall ELA scores have increased +16.7 and our EL scores have increased significantly as well by +22. Our African American population saw a significant increase in both Math +36.8 and ELA +33.6. The accumulation of our inquiry skills is evident in the 6th grade Genius Hour projects. These projects are based on 21st Century career skills that entail collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and communication.

Students who are identified as at risk through teacher SSTs, assessments, and teacher collaboration are designated for Response to Intervention (RTI). After the monitoring cycle, the RTI groups are re-assessed and regrouped by either homogeneous or heterogeneous levels. To ensure that our model is run to its true fidelity, it is important to address the higher level students as well. The Majority of Endeavours teachers are GATE certified and trained. They use depth, complexity, novelty, and pacing to provide differentiated instruction that challenges our students to go above and beyond their academic level. Our inquiry model and Project-Based Learning allow all students to be challenged, and work to reaching their fullest potential. All of these encourage the development of the whole child.