

Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School Model Programs and Practices

School Information

CDS (County District School) Code: 37683386039184

County: San Diego

District (Local Educational Agency): San Diego Unified

School: Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School

Demographics

Enrollment: 465 students

Location Description: Urban

Title I Funded: Yes

Type of Program: School-wide

School Calendar: Traditional

Charter: No

Overview

Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School is located in the beautiful Pacific Beach neighborhood of San Diego, California. As a magnet program within the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), our community welcomes students from throughout the City of San Diego and surrounding areas. We teach students to have a passion for learning, a respect for others, and a desire to reach beyond the boundaries of our language, location, culture, and economy.

Our vision is to ensure that every student becomes a thoughtful, responsible, and successful global citizen. We do so by enriching the lives of our students through the seamless balance of a solid core curriculum, integrated physical fitness and nutrition, a unique blend of Chinese and traditional arts programs for all students, and the development of a global perspective through our language immersion program. The blending of a world language program with a challenging and well-rounded academic

program taught in English will enable Barnard students to face and address the challenges of the 21st century.

Barnard's Mandarin immersion program began in the 2010–2011 school year. Kindergarten and transitional kindergarten students are taught in Mandarin for 80% of their day, encompassing subjects such as math, science, social studies, and Chinese language arts and culture. The remaining 20% of the day is focused on English language arts. Students in grades 1–5 are taught in Mandarin for 50% of their day.

Model Program and Practices

Name of Model Program/Practice: Positive Culture and Climate

Length of Model Program/Practice: 5–8 years

Target Area(s): Education Supports, Nutrition and Physical Activity/Education, Parent, Family, and Community Involvement, Professional Development, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, Visual and Performing Arts

Target Population(s): 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

Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School uses the following strategies to implement our positive culture and climate model.

All students begin their day with coordinated calisthenic exercises. Students are invited to attend a thrice weekly morning running club for which they are rewarded when meeting specific milestones. The school coach is trained in Chinese sports and activities, and incorporates them into regular physical education activities.

Our school and PTA coordinate regular parent, family, and community involvement activities, including monthly parent and child reading groups, in-class art instruction, award programs, free social gatherings and award-winning educational programs that are held on- and off-campus, sporting events, informal coffee talks with the principal and PTA board, new family mentorship programs, summer break social gatherings, traditional and Chinese holiday observances, classroom parties, in-class and field trip volunteering, after school extracurricular programs, international and multicultural

cultural gatherings, student council, philanthropic opportunities (onsite and offsite), a student ambassador program, recruitment and outreach programs, local language and sporting competitions, and more.

Our school and PTA provide resources and funding for every teacher to attend in-school and offsite professional development classes and conferences.

Our PTA funds additional science curriculum for 4th and 5th grades, in addition to traditional Chinese abacus instruction for grades K–5. Afterschool enrichment options include science and engineering classes, and the PTA’s free, family science night is one of the most well-attended events on our calendar.

Barnard students receive extensive exposure to a variety of arts, including supplemental in-class art days, after school enrichment options, bi-annual school plays, annual art and literature nights, and art competitions. Barnard students also receive in-depth instruction in the ancient Chinese arts. Students are taught tai chi, abacus, calligraphy, tea ceremony, national dances, poetry, and more by visiting Chinese and Taiwanese teachers. This not only gives the students a better perspective on the culture from which the language derives, but it also gives them an opportunity to use the language in settings that are not just purely academic.

Implementation and Monitoring

The above programs are monitored through school site council and school government committees, periodic parent and teacher surveys, and in-person parent and staff feedback sessions.

Results and Outcomes

Results of our program and practices include consistently high rates of attendance and involvement of our parents and families. More than 65% of families at our school contribute to at least one of our major fundraising drives. In addition, teachers track their students’ progress and performance through professional learning communities, which are facilitated throughout the year. Student academic results and attendance results have shown improvement. For example, testing after term one of this school year shows an increase from 53% to 88% ELA proficiency for third grade, and the fifth grade showed an increase from 53% to 73%.