

## **Myron B Green Model Programs and Practices**

### **School Information**

CDS (County District School) Code: 37683386039697

County: San Diego

District (Local Educational Agency): San Diego Unified

School: Myron B Green

### **Demographics**

Enrollment: 452 students

Location Description: Suburban

Title I Funded: No

School Calendar: Traditional

Charter: No

### **Overview**

Green Elementary is committed to building sound minds through sound bodies, creating intelligent, healthy, well-rounded leaders of our future. We are proud to offer an athletic magnet program to our students, emphasizing healthy choices in fitness, nutrition, leadership, and community. We believe the whole health of a child will lead to achievement in academics and character.

Our teachers and staff are dedicated, caring professionals. They work collaboratively with one another as grade-level teams and vertical teams to ensure a consistency in a quality curriculum. Together, they use student work as formative assessments. They use common planning time to determine common curriculum and the next instructional steps for their students. They are continually reflective about the effectiveness of their instruction based on student outcomes. In addition, Green's teachers spend time beyond the classroom to ensure school-wide events are connected to the learning of the whole child, including attention to the joy of learning. Our teachers plan our Green Jr. Olympics, winter dance concert, and parent literacy events.

We know our parents and community are a valuable partner in the success of our students. Our families join us daily for morning announcements, student recognitions, and school celebrations. They volunteer in our classrooms on a daily basis, totaling over 6,000 hours. We have a thriving PTO, Gecko Dad Corps, School Site Council, and an English Language Advisory Committee. Our PTO raises valuable funds to support additional athletic programs and enrichment events in music and art. Our Gecko Dad Corp hosts parent child events that include a rocket launch and Green Overnight Campout. Our ELAC is made up of over 24 parents, representing 10 different languages. We have a variety of events to celebrate the participation of our community, and we are supported by our parents to ensure that our students have extraordinary opportunities.

Our students are a diverse group of caring and dedicated scholars. Our students achieve at over 74% proficiency in ELA and Mathematics as measured on the SBAC. Every day our students are examples in being healthy citizens, building peace, recognizing wrongs, and seeking out wise people. Our students have advocated for philanthropic events to benefit the education in Burundi, American Heart Association, and Toys for Tots. All of our 5th grade students take on a leadership role in student council, student mentor, and playground peace patrol. All of our students are scholar athletes, participating in our running club, fitnessgram assessments, and unique physical education opportunities such as gymnastics, tennis, and track events. Our students also participate in the education of healthy lifestyles that include a student wellness council, training in CPR, and a curriculum in nutrition. Our students are truly well-rounded leaders who strive to achieve sound bodies and minds in a caring community of learners.

## **Model Program and Practices**

Name of Model Program/Practice: Closing Achievement Gap Through Sound Bodies and Minds

Length of Model Program/Practice: 8+ years

Target Area(s): Closing the Achievement Gap, Nutrition and Physical Activity/Education, Parent, Family, and Community Involvement

Target Population(s): Black or African American, Hispanic, Two or More Races, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, English Learners

Strategies Used: School Climate, Parent Engagement, Implementation of Academic Standards Basics (Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities)

## **Description**

We have been closing the achievement gap by building strong minds through strong bodies. Our teachers and staff emphasize the overall fitness of the child to achieve academic and character success. Our students have an additional physical education

time every week, and we offer a variety of activities to achieve fitness. Among the many opportunities, our students enjoy instruction in tennis, dance, gymnastics, jump rope, and track. We used a standards-based curriculum to build the skills of our students, and students are assessed throughout the year on the Fitness Gram, unit objectives, and student goals. Our physical education teacher attends the CAPHERD and national conferences for physical education teachers. All of our students are fully included in our physical education programs. We work closely with our district's adaptive PE teacher to ensure modifications and supports are in place for our physically challenged students and students who need academic and behavioral supports. We offer a fitness room, a state of the art all-weather running track, and fitness stations throughout our outdoor instructional area.

Our recess time emphasizes movement and cooperation. We have an extremely organized playground that has color-coded activities and games to ensure that they are developmentally appropriate. We offer a large variety of options for our students to be active, including ball games, climbing wall, rope activities, and running club. In addition to our staff, our recess time is supported by our own student leaders who represent our Peace Patrol. They are trained in conflict resolution and peace building skills.

Our student council works closely with our school nurse to provide our students with a Wellness program. Our student council provides information and activities to promote student wellness in nutrition, sleep habits, screen-time use, and hygiene. They create posters and flyers and make announcements at our morning assembly around these topics, and they research information relevant to the student health concerns.

All of our classroom teachers and physical education teacher provide students with curriculum in nutrition. Students study about healthy eating habits, and grow healthy choices in our garden and hydroponic tanks. Our PTO and Gecko Dad Corp sponsor fun events that promote fitness, including raising funds for our track and equipment, hosting running events, providing funds for our enrichment physical education activities such as tennis and hip hop dance, and hosting events like Screen-Free Week.

Finally we provide our students with training and education on emergency procedures, including CPR, use of the AED, and first aid. Last year, our physical education program was nationally recognized after one of our 3rd grade students used his training in CPR to save his own mother's life. We believe have knowledge and practice will build the healthy minds and bodies that allow our students to succeed.

### **Implementation and Monitoring**

Our principal and nurse work with our Student Council to implement our Student Wellness Program. Students report on aspects of health each week in March and April, and Student Council Meetings provide support and guidance for student-led-health initiatives. Health aspects include nutrition, hygiene, use of screens, and healthy life choices.

Our physical education teacher conducts fitness testing throughout the year. Twice a year, students are assessed on the battery of Fitnessgram standards. Students set personal goals for their fitness achievement, and our teachers used standards-based curriculum to ensure our students are physically active and are making progress towards their goals. Our staff is supported by our Adaptive Physical Education Teacher to ensure our students with IEP's are making progress towards their goals and that activities are modified appropriately where needed.

In addition, our classroom teachers have implemented the use of movement breaks as an opportunity to refocus and attend to the physical needs of learning. Movement breaks include GoMoodle, and specific exercises provided by our District's physical therapist and occupational therapists.

Every week we celebrate the accomplishments of our running club at our morning assembly. Each year, our students run over 10,000 miles and 80% of our students participate in our morning and recess running club program. Students electronically record their mile totals, and our PTO provides our students with recognition tokens to highlight their accomplishments.

Our classroom teachers extend the lessons of nutrition and physical fitness. Teachers provide lessons in physical fitness, nutrition, and health. In addition, our teachers are attentive to the physical needs of learning and regularly provide movement breaks, flexibility in seating, and they are attentive to the many different learning styles.

## **Results and Outcomes**

Our Students are achieving at high academic levels, and we are closing the achievement gap at Green Elementary.

Closing the Achievement Gap

Total Student Population 74.7% ELA/73.8% Math

Hispanic students 62% ELA/ 60% Math

Multi-Racial students 74% ELA/74% Math

African American students 47% ELA/ 47% Math

Economically Disadvantaged students 59% ELA/ 63% Math

Reclassified Fluent English Proficient students 76% ELA/ 70% Math

Green Elementary Students have continued to make gains as measured on the SBAC for the past two years. Many of our student sub-group populations score at the same achievement level as our total population. Although we are focused in raising the achievement scores of our African American population, this group has made strong gains in the past two years in both ELA and Mathematics.

Our students pass the battery of assessments given on the Fitnessgram and we are proud of the accomplishments our 5th graders achieve the Presidential Fitness Award. Our students volunteer to run over 10,000 miles each year in our running club and all of our 3rd–5th graders are trained in CPR, use of AED, and first aid. This year, Green Elementary teacher and student were nationally recognized with the Life Changer Award after one of our students saved his mother's life by using the CPR training he had received at school. All of our students participate in over 230 minutes of physical activity each week. This physical activity includes instruction with our nationally recognized physical education teacher, support of our district's adaptive physical education teacher, classroom activities supported by our teachers, occupational therapist, and physical therapist. In addition, we have our highly organized recess program that considers the developmentally appropriate standards and skills for each age group.

Our emphasis on teaching our students to have healthy bodies through nutrition and activity, increases their ability to remain focused in the classroom and absorb the rigorous instruction and phenomenal teaching. This combination of physical activity and academics has resulted in successful student achievement and high API scores with a lot of fun of learning with the family of Green!

The PE Department and Green Elementary School have received numerous awards for their athletic program in addition to their high ranking academic scores, including, Best Physical Education Program in State of California (Association For Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance), Exemplary Elementary Physical Education Site (San Diego County Office of Education), Spotlight on Successful Schools (Presentation to SDUSD School Board) Let's Move Campaign Presenters at Petco Park and San Diego Convention Center (American Alliance for Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance).