

## **Aviara Oaks Elementary Model Programs and Practices**

### **School Information**

CDS (County District School) Code: 37735516109201

County: San Diego

District (Local Educational Agency): Carlsbad Unified

School: Aviara Oaks Elementary

### **Demographics**

Enrollment: 633 students

Location Description: Suburban

Title I Funded: No

School Calendar: Traditional

Charter: No

### **Overview**

Aviara Oaks Elementary School (AOE) is located in Carlsbad, California in the heart of north San Diego's coastal community. Our unique setting is conveniently adjacent to Aviara Oaks Middle School. Since its inception in 1990 with 350 students, the enrollment has nearly doubled. Currently AOE has 633 students. The facilities of the campus sit on expansive acreage with open fields and well manicured lawns. The campus includes gardens, running and soccer fields, two playgrounds, and shaded areas. The proximity to the city's library, cultural arts center, and a neighborhood senior center provides educational outreach within the community.

The campus contains 37 classrooms which include 2 learning centers, 3 classrooms designated for enrichment and intervention, science lab, art room, music room, computer lab, auditorium, cafeteria, health office, library, and administrative offices.

Housing developments surrounding AOE include: affordable housing, apartments, single-family homes, and townhomes. Families are drawn to this school due to its high standards of academic excellence and positive culture. One parent recently stated, "The

teachers hold high expectations and maintain a rigorous academic environment. We are provided with resources and strategies to support our kids from home.”

The staff and family community uphold the highest expectations for all students by creating an environment which leads to success. Providing equitable access of resources allows students to achieve regardless of their socio-economic status. For example, AOE consists of a 21.1% socio-economically disadvantaged population. This subgroup continues to show growth since students are provided an enriching, rigorous environment with high expectations and accountability. As academic achievement has been met, the staff also recognizes the need to develop support strategies for this branch of learners. To meet these demands, staff receives professional development and collaborative training with targeted goals specific to our student population. CCSS have been successfully implemented into instruction; STEM practices are firmly embedded into daily curriculum. Community and parent organizations, such as CEF (Carlsbad Educational Foundation) and PTA, assist in providing support programs in the form of specialty teachers in music, PE, art, science, literacy, and math. Additional funding from CEF and PTA supports educational field trips, Science Day, and an award winning Lego Robotics program.

Our focus is to support students with 21st century skills to prepare them for a global workforce by integrating technology and rigorous curriculum. School site funds are allocated to purchase updated technology for all students. AOE’s mission is to develop lifelong learners through quality education, collaboration, and communication to build productive, successful citizens of our community.

## **Model Program and Practices**

Name of Model Program/Practice: Eagle Core Values

Length of Model Program/Practice: Less than 2 years

Target Area(s): Civic Education Awareness, Closing the Achievement Gap, Education Supports, 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**

The Eagle Core Value model was created in consideration of the needs of all students, especially those in our subgroups. The model is based on technology, community connection, and targeted support.

To prepare students to be globally competitive with 21st century skills, the implementation of technology is a main priority. Every classroom is equipped with a Smartboard, voice lift, teacher desktop/chromebook, and one-to-one student Chromebooks. Teachers receive training with the most current and updated practices which they can further access through Alludo which is a “self-paced, online, choice-driven professional development for teachers and staff training.” In addition, with every student having a Google account, online programs such as Google classroom, Go Math, Ten Marks, Reading Counts, English/Math in a Flash and Achieve 3000 have been instrumental in strengthening academic proficiency. The library’s digital components offer access to endless materials such as World Book Online, TrueFlix, and FreedomFlix to support Social Studies and Science curriculum. With the use of Chromebooks and Chromecasts, students are allowed to feature their work to a wider audience which increases accountability. At AOE, it is a priority to ensure all students have digital access at both school and home. Therefore, students in our subgroup are provided with a chromebook for the year to take home. Equal opportunity and access through technology has proven to make a difference.

Community partnership is key to the success of learners at AOE. With the support of CEF, funding is provided to help enrich students with relevant experiences such as the BizTown field trip and curriculum, Lego Robotics, and excursions to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon. Our library invites authors to introduce novels and discuss the steps they take to create their end products. Additionally, students have access to therapy dogs brought onto campus by local community members. Our PTA has a strong parent volunteer support team that aims to compliment teacher instruction. Surrounded by world renowned Bio-tech industries such as Thermo-Fisher, Carlsbad Forensics, Mad Science, and the water department, we reach out to these companies to maximize the impact of our annual Science Day hands-on lab experiments.

Targeted and differentiated support is provided to both advanced and at-risk students. Teachers use multiple measures of assessment to classify speciality groups. This is completed by analyzing SBAC scores, site, and district common assessments. AOE staff includes credentialed specialty teachers for project-based math and science activities. Additionally, students have ELA push-in and pull-out support based on needs.

## **Implementation and Monitoring**

In order to be technologically current with our practices, appropriate devices are implemented in classrooms. Teachers participate in technology training prior to the school year. Teachers learn all components of Google Classroom. Implementation of Google Classroom includes weekly writing on Google Docs, presentations on Google Slides, and assessments through Google Forms. Students are thoroughly trained to

access supplemental materials digitally. Online materials provided through Go Math include video tutorials, step by step examples, Adaptive workflow, as well as reteach/enrichment lessons. Teachers assign specific activities based on students' needs and align them with daily classroom instruction. Additionally, parent support is provided with these online materials empowering them to participate in their child's experiences. Students are expected to use multiple resources in their informative writing pieces. They access our secure library portal with materials from World Book online and TrueFlix for research purposes. Because our targeted population is guaranteed a Chromebook to take home for the year, they too will benefit from accessibility to online materials.

Walking into any room at AOE, you will see parent volunteers working in the classroom, gathering and preparing science materials, working on various committees, and supporting our positive school culture. Parent sponsored Aviara Reading Friends consists of trained community volunteers who work with struggling readers 2 times a week while focusing on reading comprehension. Our library serves as an important community resource. Local authors visit our school supporting classroom curriculum. The author of *Esperanza Rising*, Pam Muñoz Ryan, shared first hand account of her family's immigration to America from Mexico. As with other authors such as Juliet Cody and Lisa Wiehebrink, students were presented with examples of the complete writing process, including rejected manuscripts. Our PTA is involved in coordinating an interactive Science Day. SDCOE sponsors Splash Lab which is a mobile laboratory. Additional experiments include DNA extraction from strawberries and dissecting squid. With the support of our community, we are able to expand learning beyond the four walls of our classrooms.

Before the start of the school year, meetings take place to evaluate students' scores from the previous year. We dedicate this time determining student academic levels and itemizing strands to guide instruction and provide additional support. For students receiving enrichment in math, our speciality teacher aligns projects to correlate with the grade level's unit of study. Struggling readers and writers receive additional assistance in a pull-out/push-in model as credentialed speciality teachers front load precise language, comprehension strategies, and the big idea. Targeted support encourages discussion that allows students to brainstorm in a comfortable, small group setting.

## **Results and Outcomes**

Using data to drive instruction we provide an umbrella of high expectations. Teachers at AOE maintain scaffolding of systematic support. Aviara Oaks reclassified 24.6% of our EL students which is double the district average reclassification rate of 12%. AOE's test scores in both ELA and math exceeded our district overall average. The district's scores met or exceeded 75% in ELA and 65% in math. By comparison, AOE scored 81% in ELA and 74% in math. This data validates the success of our programs.

Students performing below grade level standards receive support through intervention. For example, while analyzing our test priority clusters from prior years, we recognized a weakness in identifying the main idea of a passage. With reinforcement from our ELA specialty teacher, specific skills in SBAC Claim 1 are targeted based on assessments.

Providing multiple opportunities in obtaining academic goals are reached by giving children relevant examples and precise exercises. Our staff emphasizes Close Reading skills, collaboration, and peer discussion. Further emphasis is provided by Lexile based Achieve 3000 and English in a Flash, to focus on the support of identifying main ideas. Math continues to be our site's focus. Students requiring extra support are identified through multiple measures of ongoing formative and summative assessments. Teachers at AOE personalize instruction by implementing small group and one on one instruction. We collaboratively teach by sharing methods that support the area of need. Students utilize reteach materials, spiral review, and online Adaptive Workflow where both parents and students have been trained. This blended learning environment is the key to our winning strategy of mastery for students of multiple skill levels.

Students meeting and exceeding standards also receive targeted support. Flexible grouping methods are utilized to meet the needs of these students. Enrichment groups are fluid which allows students to receive high level project based instruction. Speciality teachers in both ELA and math design curriculum using SBAC targets and claims. These groups have been proven to push our advanced students to exceed personalized goals. A parent with three children who have attended AOE since kindergarten stated, "In math enrichment group my child has been given the opportunity to build upon math skills while working on fun and challenging projects. She always looks forward to it."

Through a comprehensive plan of aligned curriculum, strategies, supports, and interventions along with a school culture of meeting and exceeding expectations, our students benefit from instruction that is intentional, relevant, and meaningful. AOE Core Values assure there is no limit to how high our eagles can soar.