

Forest Hill Elementary School Model Programs and Practices

School Information

CDS (County District School) Code: 43693936046577

County: Santa Clara

District (Local Educational Agency): Campbell Union

School: Forest Hill Elementary School

Demographics

Enrollment: 680 students

Location Description: Suburban

Title I Funded: No

School Calendar: Traditional

Charter: Yes

Overview

Community, compassion, and collaboration infuse the commitment to excellence at Forest Hill School. A strong sense of community is a vital part of the Forest Hill culture with staff, students, and parents dedicated to an exceptional educational experience that promotes academic, social, and emotional success for all our students.

Serving students from Campbell, Los Gatos, Saratoga and San Jose, Forest Hill is home to over 680 students from preschool to fifth grade, including eight Special Day classes. Our partnerships with all communities and their families represent one of our greatest assets. Parents are part of the decision-making process through involvement in a very active PTA (Parent Teacher Association), School Site Council, English Language Advisory Committee, and Project Cornerstone. Parent and community volunteers form a key component in the school's success.

At Forest Hill, we work together to build a caring school climate that is positive, predictable, consistent and safe. Our motto is "We are respectful. We are responsible. We are safe. And we care!"

Our student body is represented by 37% Asian, 33% White and 10% two or more races. 10% of our school is socioeconomically disadvantaged and 18% of our students are English Language Learners.

Mission Statement

Forest Hill inspires learning and problem solving by creating educational experiences that address the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students.

Model Program and Practices

Name of Model Program/Practice: STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Mathematics) Program

Length of Model Program/Practice: Less than 2 years

Target Area(s): 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, Health Support, Social/Emotional/Behavioral Support, Professional Development, Implementation of Academic Standards Basics (Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities)

Description

The goal of our STEAM program is to increase involvement for all stakeholders and to inspire a passion for learning. We have seen an increase in participation at all STEAM events and opportunities on our campus. With the adoption of the CCSS and NGSS and a focus on college and career readiness, it was clear to all stakeholders there was a need to increase students exposure to STEAM learning experiences.

Weekly, 4 STEAM teachers provide all grade levels an opportunity to be exposed to lessons that are based on the 4 C's (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity). Homeroom teachers co-teach with a STEAM teacher to provide these enriching experiences.

PTA has made great impact on our students' ability to appreciate as well as produce art. A trained artist gives weekly students lessons. Students in all grades are exposed to a

variety of professional artists, mediums and materials. Transitional kindergarten learns about shapes, collages, animals, primary and secondary colors. Kindergarten students learn about shapes, straight lines, curved lines, spirals and collages. First grade students learn about abstract lines, three-dimensional shapes and abstract art. Second grade students learn about making art from drawing dots. Third grade students learn about Cubist artists and create their own Cubist collage. Fourth grade, students learn how to create art with sugar and oil pastels. Fifth grade students learn about radial symmetry and abstract painting. Each lesson is based on real artist's work and many lessons contain a literature story too.

Our PTA has provided many enriching assemblies. Students have learned about animals and their habitats. As well as how to preserve and protect animals in their natural habitats. Students have learned about physics and its role in everyday activities. All students very much enjoyed learning magic and circus tricks and the scientific explanations behind those tricks. We try very hard to highlight our local community in our assemblies. A local beekeeper explained the important role bees play in our world and about beekeeping.

All students including our special needs students participate in our STEAM programs. By having our STEAM program accessible to all students and families, we have seen an increase in participation, appreciation and learning.

Additionally, our fourth and fifth grade students receive STEAM lessons from a devoted STEAM teacher. All lessons are based on the NGSS with an emphasis on the 4 C's. This is what makes Forest Hill's STEAM program distinguished. We are the only school in our district to provide this level of STEAM integration weekly.

Implementation and Monitoring

Local and state assessments are given to students all throughout the year. Teachers and administrators analyze student data to determine if students are making growth and showing mastery of the CCSS and NGSS standards.

We currently use an online program called iReady to assess students reading ability in grades 2nd through 5th. iReady is used for math assessment in grades first through fifth. Students in grades kindergarten and first grade use the Fountas and Pinnell reading assessments. With the use of the online Science website Mystery Science, there are assessments built into the lessons.

Forest Hill credentialed staff members analyze student data to determine if students are showing mastery of the CCSS for mathematics and language arts. Within those assessments, NGSS standards are imbedded. We also use district units based on the NGSS. Those units contain assessment opportunities for students. Forest Hill students continue to show growth on their understanding of the CCSS standards. Students in grades 3rd–5th have shown an increase in their mastery of the CCSS. We had an 18.3-point increase for English Language Arts and a 19.2-point increase for Mathematics. English Language Learners have also show an increase in their academic performance.

EL students showed a 10.6% increase from the 2015–2016 to the 2016–2017. Three times a year, students are assessed using local assessments. Teachers and administrators analyze the students' data and determine next steps. Students are given supports and enrichment as needed. Forest Hill provides a three-tiered intervention program for English Language Arts. We also have an intervention program for math for grades second through fifth. Teachers and administrators meet three times a year to discuss, analyze and create next steps to ensure all students are making growth. During these one-on-one discussions, teachers are supported with ideas, materials and resources to support students academically, socially and emotionally. By having students explore the multiple forms of learning (Musical-rhythmic and harmonic, Visual-Spatial, Verbal-Linguistic, Logical-Mathematical, Bodily-kinesthetic, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal and Naturalistic) students are more engaged. Students have shown increased mastery on the CCSS and NGSS standards. Students are given opportunities to work with others to solve problems. We have heard from students on their perception survey results that they want to be challenged at school. Our STEAM program does just that.

Assessment Results:

- 5th Grade CAASPP Science Results: 96.7% Proficient or Advanced
- 3rd–5th Grade CAASPP ELA Results: 70% Exceeded Standard; 21% Met Standard; 6% Nearly Met Standard and 3% Not Met Standard
- 3rd–5th Grade CAASPP Math Results: 74% Exceeded Standard; 21 Met Standard, 5% Nearly Met Standard and 0% Not Met Standard

Results and Outcomes

With our STEAM program being school wide, we have seen an increase in student achievement scores for both local and state assessments.

Our PTA is a great supporter of STEAM integration on our campus. Our PTA funds a credentialed Art Teacher to provide 36 lessons per year to all grades. Our school garden is opened every Tuesday with hands-on activities for students to complete. They also provide funds to support STEAM assemblies and field trips. We have an annual Science Fair (Planet Falcon) event for students in all grades to participate in. We bring local astronomers to our campus to support our students and families in star gazing. We hold a Children's Discovery Museum Family Night where students and their parents can take part in STEAM activities. We held a Bay Area Bird Observer family night where students and families learned about the birds in our area and how to care for and protect them. For our final parent night, students learned how to construct paper airplanes that fly well. Students also take part in Math Olympiad and Math Kangaroo.

Our annual Planet Falcon STEAM event has become one of our signature events for our school. Parents, teachers and community members all participate to ensure this event promotes a passion for learning and an appreciation for STEAM. The first year of

our event, we had 100 students participate in creating their own STEAM project. This year, we have 88 students signed up so far. We will have support from our local fire department, local library, the Open Space Authority and the nearby high school robotics and lego teams.

With the support from our PTA, students and families have taken the following STEAM related field trips. Kindergarten visited a local farm to participate in their pumpkin patch, learned about the animals. First grade went to the California Academy of Sciences. Second grade visited Emma Pursch Farms to learn about our local farming practices. They also went to the Youth Science Institute to learn about insects and their habitats. Third grade visited the Campbell Historical Museum to learn about the farming equipment and engineering in our area. Fourth grade visit the local California Mission to learn about the engineering talents of the Native Americans in our area. Ffifth grade visited Cosgwell College to learn about their engineering program. They also visited the local high tech firms of AOL and Intel.

Our school community receives weekly communication electronically, by voicemail and paper newsletters that contain vital information about school programs and events. Classroom teachers and students also promote our school programs and events. With the support of our PTA, we have monthly parent meetings to discuss and brainstorm ways to improve our school. Quarterly, parents are given an update on what students have been learning in their STEAM classes, assemblies and on field trips.