



CALIFORNIA SCHOOL TO WATCH VISITOR'S GUIDE



Downtown College Prep Alum Rock Middle School



2017 School Statistics

(Sources: 2009 API Growth Report; 2010 AYP Report)

Community: San Jose
Enrollment: 362
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Traditional Calendar

Student Demographics

- 89% Hispanic
- 4% Asian
- 2% White
- 1.5% Filipino
- 1% African American
- 1% Pacific Islander
- 1% Two or More Races
- 0.5% American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 87% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 40% English Learners

(Visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/index.asp> to view this school's data for prior years.)

Designated in 2017

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<https://dcp.org/en/dcp-alum-rock-middle-school/>

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Preparing First Generation Students to thrive in a 4 year university. 95% of DCP students attend a 4 year university.
- Classes are Common Core and NGSS aligned
- Workshop Approach- \Provides individualized and small group learning and a gradual release model to foster independent, self-motivated learners.
- Understanding by Design- Provides a curricular design model that aligns rigorous learning outcomes and real world application.
- Project/Problem Based Learning- Provides students with empowering opportunities to make a difference, by solving real problems and addressing real issues.
- Blended Learning- Leverages technology to create individualized learning pathways and increase teacher availability for individual and small group targeted instruction. (Primarily in mathematics)
- Design Thinking- An emerging strategy at DCP, Design Thinking provides a process to support student creativity, innovation, and collaboration through authentic, experiential learning that connects to real world applications
- Student and data driven instruction
- Enrichment courses: Art, STEM, Coding and Health and Wellness
- Advisory focusing on College Readiness, Growth Mindset
- Literacy Across all Curriculums
- 70 minute periods of core instruction
- Formative and summative assessments that informs classroom instruction
- Intervention/support groups before and after school
- 10 days of professional development
- Department and Grade level collaboration
- Chrome carts in every classroom
- Family showcase events

Developmental Responsiveness

- Small school campus
- Summer College Camp for incoming 6th grade students at Santa Clara University
- College trips for all grades
- Ropes course- team building
- After school clubs
- Advisory program 4 days a week
- Weekly whole school assembly
- Monthly grade level family meetings
- New family night
- Monthly parent coffee with the principal
- Culture Building- two to three week focus on culture and community building in the classroom
- School values-DCP: Desire Community Pride
- DCP Tool-Kit- 20 best teaching practices
- Hand's on, real world connections through experiences and projects
- Cross curricular and grade level projects
- Identity and interest exploration
- Student Leadership class
- Community Service Projects
- Student/family recruiters

Social Equity

- Every student has at least one adult advocate through advisory or other school wide programs
- Guest speakers are found frequently: Cultural, religious, ethnic and political
- Student recognition, weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly
- Lobo of the Week
- Restorative Justice Approach
- Instructional coaches
- Differentiation of instruction and assessment
- Technology is used as a tool
- Weekly Collaboration
- 100% free brunch and lunch provided
- School supplies for all students
- Clipper cards for public bus transportation
- Bilingual newsletters and phone messages
- Weekly Assemblies
- Classroom libraries with diverse books representing various cultures, religions and social backgrounds

Organizational Support

- 10 days of in service professional development
- Wednesday collaboration days- Grade level, department, and staff
- Master Schedule is built so that Special Education may provide pushing and pull out services
- Grade level teams
- Math coaches
- Leadership Team representing grade level and departments
- 3 day staff retreat in August
- Teachers compensation committee
- 8th grade to high school articulation
- University partnerships with SJSU, SCU, NU
- Math tutors
- Summer Bridge program/PBL Academy
- School Site Council
- ELAC
- Parent coffee with the principal monthly
- Public parent calendar
- Partnership with Tovani and Bennett