



# CALIFORNIA SCHOOL TO WATCH

## VISITOR'S GUIDE



### Tetzlaff Accelerated Learning Academy



**Designated in 2014, Redesignated in 2017**

Tetzlaff Accelerated Learning Academy • ABC Unified School District • Los Angeles County • Kester Song, Principal • 12351 Del Amo Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703 • Tel (562) 229-7795 Fax (562) 402-6412 • [http://www.edline.net/pages/Tetzlaff\\_Middle\\_School](http://www.edline.net/pages/Tetzlaff_Middle_School)

### 2016 School Statistics

(Sources: 2016 SARC, CDE)

Community: Cerritos, Suburban, Los Angeles  
Enrollment: 651  
Grade Levels: 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>  
School Schedule: Traditional Calendar

#### Student Demographics

- 40.1% Hispanic
- 20.3% Asian
- 16% Filipino
- 13.2% African American
- 7.4% White
- 2.2% Two or More Races
- 0.8% Pacific Islander
- 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 42.2% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 9.5% English Learners

#### 2016 CAASPP Results

- % of students meeting/exceeding standards
  - ELA – 63%
  - Math – 44%

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- SpringBoard is the College Board's pre-AP curriculum that supports theme-based instruction where students study core materials in greater depth while increasing critical thinking skills to better understand themselves.
- Pre-AP strategies and habits of mind are used across the curriculum.
- Teachers provide clear feedback and when necessary allow revision of assessments to give students the opportunity to meet or exceed the standards.
- Interventions include teachers providing focused, differentiated instruction, support classes for ELs, after school tutoring, and homework help.
- Students work in cooperative teams engaging in inquiry-based activities consistently in all classrooms.
- AVID WICOR strategies are used to strengthen skills in reading and writing across the curriculum.
- Teachers use common assessments and grading systems, in addition, time is specifically set aside to practice extended writing tasks (Performance Task Tuesday).
- Weekly staff development or collaboration between the various teams to analyze assessment data, revise pacing guides, plan units, and create common assessments.

### Developmental Responsiveness

- Teaching organizational skills is the focus of the morning homeroom period and the AVID elective classes.

### **Developmental Responsiveness (*continued*)**

- Elective classes include Crime Scene Investigations, computer skills, AVID, a full marching and concert band program, dance, chorus, television broadcasting, Model United Nations, Project Lead the Way, Speech & Debate, yearbook & journalism, and a high school level Spanish I class.
- Science Flex Lab, Fitness Lab, a Computer Lab, as well as interactive technology in each and every classroom increase student engagement.
- The television broadcast is managed entirely by students from interview, production, to broadcast.
- Students share their portfolios, assessments, and exemplary work with their parents during Open House.
- Each administrator adopts several homerooms to coach throughout the school year in order to create student relationships outside the administrative office.
- PeaceBuilders strategies of praising people, giving up put downs, and righting wrongs are taught to peers by peers to ensure program ownership and collaboration among the student and Tetzlaff community.
- The Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports behavior matrix called the Trojan Traits guides our overall approach in teaching and building positive behaviors and interactions.
- Specific, targeted counseling and intervention programs available for students identified as academically and/or socio-emotionally at-risk.

### **Social Equity**

- Interventions instead of out-of-school suspensions include (1) STEP – counseling session that allows students to resolve conflict, learn mediation skills, and develop cultural sensitivity; (2) PATH – is a five-day anti-drug and alcohol program; (3) and EMBRACE – an anti-bullying program centered on character and relationship building.
- English Learners participate in an annual CELDT boot camp prior to the test.
- Various forms of assessments are used to measure student achievement in all content areas, including embedded assessments, performance task Tuesday assignments, benchmark exams, common assessments, constructed responses, student portfolios, and fitness tests.
- With a two-year teacher commitment, the Homeroom class is designed to establish a mentor relationship between teachers and students.
- The ASB and staff plans school-wide activities like 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Launch Day for all new students, lunchtime activities, and school dances.

### **Organizational Support**

- The leadership team, comprised of administrators and department heads, provides a unified message for the staff where decisions are made collaboratively.
- Two Fridays each month are devoted to staff professional development where teachers are trained in best teaching practices related to AVID WICOR strategies, as well as training in the Common Core State Standards.
- Learning Walks allow teachers to open their classrooms to others from all departments and share effective instructional strategies.
- The Super 8 are instructional strategies and practices that have been identified as our daily focus areas.
- Shadow Your Student Day, provides parents an opportunity to follow their students through a typical school day in order to gain a better perspective on their student's experience.
- The school district supports the AVID program by hiring, training, and providing funding for college tutors for tutorials.