



# Rancho Milpitas Middle School

Redesignated School To Watch

# What is Schools To Watch?

Schools to Watch is an initiative launched by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform in 1999.

Through the Schools to Watch initiative, the National Forum identifies schools across the United States that are on their way to meeting the Forum's criteria for high performance which are:

- **Academic Excellence**
- **Developmental Responsiveness**
- **Social Equity**

Rancho's initial designation as a School To Watch was in 2004.





Rancho has a sustained and ongoing focus on effectively addressing the Common Core State Standards, on Literacy in the content areas, and on promoting AVID strategies (Socratic Seminar, Philosophical Chairs, etc.) school wide. **In the past two years we have worked to strengthen our program for English Language Learner (ELL) students.** We have:

- Expanded the English Language Development (ELD) teacher to full-time to offer two additional sections of ELD.
- Dedicated Chrome cart to facilitate regular use of technology tools such as Google Docs, Newsela, iReady, and YouTube.
- Established a Professional Learning Community (PLC) for our three SDAIE ELA teachers; and expanded a teacher's job to offer EL Site Support for professional development.
- Rancho had a 113 percent growth rate in English Language Arts and 63 percent in Math for its English Learner (EL) student cohort from the 14-15 school year to 15-16.

# Developmental Responsiveness

Rancho Milpitas Middle School responds to the developmental needs of its students through its teaming structure which includes the four core teachers (ELA, Math, Science, & History) and a common prep period for each team.

**Teams** offer multiple supports (homework help, tutorials) before and after school. In addition, there is **HW Club** open to all students after school.

**Strategic Advisories** are in place to help students develop skills in areas such as organization, self-advocacy, time management, and work completion.

**Connections & Curiosity:** Spring Play, Multicultural Rally, Speech & Debate, Science Olympiad, Spelling Bee, Math Competition, Campus Clubs, Rancho Reads, etc.





## *Rancho has a constant eye on equity:*

- **More equitable representation** of historically underserved students (Latino, African American) in Int Math 1 and Associated Student Body (ASB) classes
- All students have regular access to **tech tools on campus**, with our newcomer ELL students having one-to-one Chromebooks to take with them throughout the school day to facilitate a greater level of understanding and comprehension (online translation tools and other apps).
- **Finding the good in all our students and celebrating it openly** (Students of the Week, Students of the Month, Ranchograms, Spark Shirts, Red Shirts, Honor Roll)

**Social Equity**