



SCHOOLS TO WATCH – TAKING CENTER STAGE

MODEL SCHOOL – VISITOR'S GUIDE



Robert A. Millikan Middle School



Designated 2005; Re-Designated 2008, 2011

Millikan Middle School • Los Angeles Unified School District • Los Angeles County • John Plevack, Principal • 5041 Sunnyslope Avenue, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 • Tel 818-528-1600, Fax 818-990-7654 •

http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Millikan_MS/

2010 School Statistics

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

Community: Large city
Enrollment: 2,057
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Six periods with specialized homeroom

Student Demographics

- 47% White
 - 36% Hispanic/Latino
 - 10% African American
 - 4% Asian
 - 2% Filipino
 - 1% American Indian/Alaska Native
 - 1% Two or more races
 - 0% Pacific Islander
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- 42% Free/Reduced Lunch
 - 8% English Learners

2009 API Base: 844

2010 API Growth: 862 (up 279 points since 1999-00)

2010 AYP: Met 26 of 29 criteria

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

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Rigorous standards-based instruction coupled with ongoing assessment and review of that data play an integral role in instructional planning.
- A team of teachers works together to plan instructional strategies, field trips, activities, and culminating projects that address the content standards.
- Specialized academies connect students to rigorous academic coursework, fieldtrips, and projects; academies to which students may belong are Civics, Math, Science, Dance Academies, Performing Arts, or the School of Advanced Studies (SAS).
- An after-school Advanced Placement Biology program serves GATE students.
- The extensive visual and performing arts program has 10 full-time art teachers with outstanding facilities.
- A full-time Interventions Coordinator integrates core intervention program and develops personalized supports to meet student learning needs.

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- Before- and after-school intervention program provides free homework assistance and/or tutoring six days per week.

Developmental Responsiveness

- The school Performing Arts Magnet has many schools-within-a-school configurations to meet the needs of adolescents.
- Both student responsibility and respect are emphasized across campus.
- Many teachers employ instructional strategies that are infused with the arts allowing for innovation for culminating projects.
- Technology is across the curriculum and is integrated to facilitate and support learning in a variety of ways, including five computer labs, classroom computers, and LCD projectors.
- IMPACT, Peer Mediation Team, Rainbow Council, Performing Arts Ambassadors, and other special interest groups provide ongoing socio-emotional support to assist students in developing their own identity and resolving disputes and disagreements through nonviolent means.
- Students donate time to perform at community festivals, elementary schools, nursing homes, and shelters.
- Millikan Student Leadership sponsors a variety of activities and focused community service efforts.

Social Equity

- Collaborative working relationships between special education and regular education students and teachers ensure inclusion that is equitable and successful.
- Students with disabilities have access to the exceptional performing arts and technology programs.
- Daily homeroom period includes a variety of special programs that are accessible to all students.
- An extensive performing arts elective program includes dance, drama, instrumental music, vocal music, Afro-Caribbean drumming, jazz band, costume design, and musical theatre.
- Ongoing partnerships with a variety of community arts agencies provide cultural assemblies and special instructional workshops that highlight ethnic groups represented in the Millikan student body.
- Character education program develops strong citizenship skills.
- Alternatives to suspension include early behavior interventions.

Organizational Support

- Department cadres and the instructional leadership team collaborate regularly to identify at-risk students and provide focused support in meeting content standards.
- Support teams are designed to provide focused intervention for students unable to reach proficiency in English or math on the California Standards Tests.
- Modified Tuesday schedule provides teachers with weekly professional learning opportunities.