

or exceed master of his/her grade level standards. Differentiated and rigorous curricula include:

- English Language Arts
- English Language Development
- Reading Foundational Skills in K-5
- Spanish Language Development in the Dual Immersion Program
- Mathematics
- Science
- Engineering
- History/Social Science
- Physical Education/Health
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Technology

Overview of Research-Based Instructional Best Practices and Strategies

In order to provide a learning environment that fulfills our vision and to enable our students to become lifelong learners, we are committed to developing the highest quality educational program for every student. We provide our students a transitional kindergarten through eighth grade program with a clearly articulated standards-based curriculum that ensures continuity of expectations and maximizes learning. Our goal is to achieve excellence through the implementation of innovative research-based best practices. We will adapt and modify our best practices as research and data identify new strategies and new best practices.

Current best practices include:

- A commitment to ongoing, systematic staff development based on current research.
- Implementation of a comprehensive literacy block to improve reading comprehension through a daily, school-wide literacy block.
- Organization of instruction around the standards rather than around any particular curriculum
- English Learners receive English Language Development instruction on a daily basis
- Small group instruction in reading and math, organized around the Gradual Release of Responsibility
- Dual Immersion Program for families who would like their student to have instruction in English and Spanish
- Targeted, structured teacher collaboration to look at student work, analyze data, and develop standards-based lessons.

- Use of assessments and data to guide instruction and to provide differentiation to meet the needs of all learners, including but not limited to our high-achieving students and low-achieving students. The desegregation of data by these students and target populations (i.e. English Language Learners, special education students, foster youth, homeless) will allow us to target these learners in small group and whole group instruction.
- Use of assessments and data will be used to determine and allocate instructional assistants to support classroom teachers in small group instruction.
- Writing across the curriculum.
- Hands-on use of technology by all students, TK-8, through the use of iPod Touches (K-1) and iPads (K-8).
- An active, after school program offering an array of clubs and projects
- Positive behavior support system, including a comprehensive school counseling base program that promotes and enhances student success.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in elective course.

The following research-based programs and methodologies have been identified by our teaching staff as current best practices:

- Writer's Workshop
- Research based math curriculum
- The incorporation of Visual and Performing Arts and Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Physical Education standards.
- School-wide implementation of differentiated, rigorous curricula that meets the individual needs of each child.
- Feaster's Dual Immersion Program is designed to teach students to be bi-literate and have an appreciation for multiculturalism.
- English Learners receiving English Language Development instruction on a daily basis
- Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) and Guided Language Acquisition (GLAD), which are used to provide equal access to the curriculum for all students including English Learners.
- Bi-weekly assessments in English Language Arts, Spanish Language Arts, and Mathematics for diagnosis and measurement of student progress