

# Courtyard School

Seventh Grade

2011/2012

# Overview

- Courtyard = Transitional Kindergarten through Eighth Grade
- 2011/2012 Seventh Grade
- 2012/2013 Eighth Grade
  
- Middle School = Integrated Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Classes
- High School Preparatory Program the incorporates the Courtyard values of creativity and serving the needs of individual learners.

# High School Preparatory Program

- Graduates ready to apply to competitive high school programs
- Advanced Mathematics
- Foreign Language
- Extracurricular Programs, Leadership  
Community Service Opportunities needed for  
High School applications

# Departmentalized Structure

- Middle School classes will be taught using a departmentalized structure. Instead of having one core teacher throughout the day, students will have different teachers teaching various subjects to help students prepare for the transition to high school.

# Learning Outside the Box

- The Middle School will continue with the Courtyard mission of helping to develop well rounded students by providing many learning opportunities outside the class including both frequent and extended fieldtrips, project based learning, leadership roles and mentoring younger students.

# Extended/Overnight Fieldtrips

## Seventh Grade

- Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles - Students will participate in a two day program called Tools for Tolerance for Teens.
- Catalina Island Maritime Institute – Students will have many adventures while actively study the island’s biology and natural features.

## Eighth Grade

- Eighth Grade students will take a culminating trip to Washington D.C. and New York City to study history, government and culture of the United States.

# Curriculum

- Middle School courses at Courtyard will continue parallel the California State Content Standards.
- Core Subjects include - math, reading, language arts, science, social studies and P.E., Middle School.
- Students will also study Spanish and leadership.

# Electives

- Middle School electives will include performing arts, fine arts, technology, band, gardening, student council and yearbook.
- In Seventh Grade an “Elective Wheel” approach will be used to give students a variety of elective experiences. All students will take three or more electives in Seventh Grade. Some electives will be taken by the whole class, other electives will be chosen by individuals.
- In Eighth Grade students will have choices of more advanced electives.

# Staffing

- The 7<sup>th</sup> grade class in 2011/2012 will be taught primarily as a self contained class. One teacher will teach the core classes of language arts, reading, social studies and science.
- P.E. and elective classes will be taught by separate staff.

# Staffing Continued

- In 2012/2013 an additional teacher will be hired. Once there is both a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade program instruction will take on a more departmentalized approach. One of the instructors will specialize in math and science the other instructor will specialize in reading, language arts and science.

# Housing

- For the 2011/2012 school year the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class will be housed in the main building in the room that is currently used as the performing arts classroom. The classroom will be furnished with new classroom furniture and lockers.
- For the 2012 2013 school year an additional classroom space will to be added to campus.

# EDC and Extra Curricular Opportunities

- Seventh and Eighth grade students will be able to participate in PAL Varsity Sports. Depending upon the level of student interest Courtyard could field teams in boys and girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls flag football, co-ed golf and co-ed track and field.
- EDC will include after school clubs specifically intended for older students using a “teen room” approach. Clubs will be selected to take into account the interests of students.

# EDC and Extra Curricular Opportunities (continued)

- School staff will work closely with the students, parents and PTO to provide age appropriate social events on a monthly basis. These events could include things like movie nights, dinner out, weekend excursions and sporting events.
- Staff will work to create expanded learning communities for middle school students through on-line learning opportunities.