

WESTERN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

Mission and Vision of the School

Vision: We at Western Avenue Elementary School will provide a safe, standards-based, whole child teaching approach that will eliminate the achievement gap.

Mission: Western Avenue, “*where hard work can lead to great things,*” fosters a culture of high expectations for behavior and academics. We provide a stimulating environment to inspire children of all ability levels to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, capable communicators, and global citizens. We also foster teacher creativity, work with parents as allies, and ultimately prepare students for college, career, leadership, and life.

Core Beliefs: At Western Avenue, we understand the following:

- We believe that all children can learn.
- Children learn best with hands-on, real life experiences and collaboration with their peers.
- Children learn best in a culturally relevant, responsive, and safe environment.
- High-quality, research-based, and reflective teaching practices are best for all students.
- Parents are our best allies and partners in the education of our students.

Designing Data-Driven & Student Centered Instructional Programs

Western Avenue Elementary is proud of the great gains in California’s Academic Performance Index (API) that were made in 2011. We gained 96 points to increase our API to 740, and we believe that our gains can be attributed to an intense focus on data in academics, attendance, and attitude.

We know that our students need:

- Differentiated and individualized instruction
- Technology to enhance learning
- Access to engaging curriculum, good teaching, peer collaboration, and the arts

We meet these needs through:

- Implementation of the Response to Intervention and Instruction (RtI²) model
- Comprehensive assessment programs like Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and Periodic Assessments
- Reading Lab, BURST and Triumphs Intervention, and Language!
- Mind Research’s ST Math computer program
- Academic English Mastery Program (AEMP) and Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) access strategies
- Incorporating

Instructional Program

Students with disabilities:

- PSM: Pre-School Mix Program (Early Childhood Special Education programs)
- PSI: Pre-School Intensive
- Special Day Classes

- Response to Intervention and Instruction, Tiers One, Two and Three
- AEMP Strategies
- Western Avenue Elementary Reading Lab w Instructional Coach
- SST
- BURST Intervention
- Triumphs Intervention
- Informal RSP push in the classroom
- IEP

Socio-economically disadvantaged students:

- Pre-school
- SRLDP- School Readiness Language Development Program
- Transition Kindergarten
- School Wide Incentive Attendance Program
- PSA Counselor and LAUSD Homeless Education Program
- Targeted/ Intensive Attendance Band Students/ SART conferences
- School Nurse in conjunction with indentifying medical issues
- SST
- Access to CORE Coach

GATE students:

- GATE Coordinator
- Pull-out Enrichment two days a week for identified GATE and High Achievers
- Clustered in classrooms
- GATE Coordinator pushes into classrooms and works with GATE students
- Home-School Connection provided by a Newsletter to parents of GATE students
- Classrooms with GATE clusters receive Smart Boards

English Language Learners:

- Pre-School
- Transition Kindergarten
- SRLDP classes
- CELDT
- ELD Portfolios
- Response to Intervention, Tiers One, Two and Three
- California Treasures Language Arts and ELD Program
- AEMP
- SDAIE
- BURST
- K-2 Reading Lab
- Parent Language and Education Classes

Standard English Learners:

- Response to Intervention, Tiers One, Two and Three
- AEMP Strategies
- BURST

- Reading Lab
- Voyager
- California Treasures Language Arts Program
- Write From the Beginning Program
- Triumphs Reading Program
- Teacher-led conversations to integrate oral language development into all curricular areas
- Personal Thesaurus of Conceptually Coded Words
- Listening Centers

School Culture

Western Avenue School is a school where students, staff, parents, and community members experience a positive, safe, and rigorous school environment. It is a school where teacher collaboration, planning, and high expectations are part of the school traditions where; families are partners; success begins with good first teaching; and there is strength in diversity. At Western Avenue School we achieve our goals of creating a culture of efficiency, collaboration, and flexibility, where all staff feels a deep responsibility for each student's learning, safety and well-being. Western's ubiquitous school motto—*"Hard work can lead to great things"*—is posted and repeated frequently.

A Day in the Life

David and LaShana arrive at school ready for learning. Both students come dressed in uniforms. LaShana and her siblings are greeted curbside in the "Stop Drop and Go" valet program offered by parent volunteers. David's mom walks him to the front gate where another parent volunteer invites her to the office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass for a scheduled parent conference. Both students proceed to the cafeteria where they are warmly greeted by parent volunteers and Supervision Aids and served a nutritious well-balanced breakfast. After breakfast and before the morning bell, both students have the following choices: proceed directly to the yard where energetic music gather students for morning aerobic exercises to stimulate blood flow to the brain; gather under the Pavilion where quiet games—Chess, checkers and other board games are supervised; Computer lab for STMath; or directly to the yard to await the bell. Teachers anticipate the first 8:10 bell and promptly pick up their classes and proceed to the classroom where instruction begins at 8:15. The teacher promptly takes and inputs daily attendance in ISIS. The daily agenda, standards, today's attendance, and teacher's name with room number are posted on the whiteboard for all to see. The first hour of the day is ELD or MELD instruction. LaShana knows the routine for Treasures instruction and meets with her small group while her teacher meets with another group. David likewise gathers his materials and immediately goes to the *Language!*4 alternative reading group with the teacher next door. Following the 2 hours of RLA they both experience 1 hour of math, 20 minutes of PE and 40 minutes of Science/Social Science. Since it is Tuesday, at the end of the day they are both invited to the Tuesday Tutoring Program where highly qualified teachers supervise after school tutoring for one hour. After tutoring, both students have the following choices: go directly home, the computer lab, or join after-school playground's YDP program. Today, David participates in intramural sports. LaShana's mom picked her up promptly after tutoring and she is done for the day. They are both excited to go home and share with their family the learning they received at school today.

Extracurricular Activities

- Morning calisthenics
- Computer Lab – STMath before and after school daily

- Board Games Club under the Pavilion
- Reading Lab
- After school Tutoring for New Comers
- Intramural Games with YDP
- Yard Beautification and Gardening

Parent Engagement & Involvement

Western is very proud of our active and welcoming Parent Center. The Parent Center houses our three Community Representatives, and is the home base for our school volunteers. School staff and the community representatives work hard to invite parents to volunteer and attend school events. We plan various fundraisers throughout the year to engage the community in school activities.

Each month, we send home a complete monthly calendar to the parents, including workshops, Coffee with the Principal, and CEAC/ELAC/SSC meetings.

Volunteer opportunities for parents include:

- Kids Watch L.A. Safety Valet program in the mornings
- Classroom volunteer work
- Cafeteria Supervision
- Yard Supervision
- Career Day
- Teacher request book in the Parent Center

Staffing

Selectively hiring and maintaining highly qualified teaching staff is our highest priority in staffing. We want teachers at Western Avenue School who want to be here and want to teach “Our” students. The Hiring Committee has set high standards for all incoming staff. This rigorous hiring process will include but will not be limited to the following:

- Post and advertise the opening with district human resources
- Focused hiring committee made up of teachers, parents, certificated, community and principal.
- Committee will conduct resume check of all applicants’ resumes and references prior to inviting them to interview.
- Qualifying candidates will be asked to present a lesson or have members of committee observe them teaching a lesson at their school site.
- Final candidates will be selected by consciences of Hiring Committee.
- Final candidates will be offered a position after reading and signing the schools waiver agreement.

Applicant Team Contact Information

Lead Team Member Name: Bettye Johnson, Principal

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