



El Monte Middle School

Home of the Mighty LOBOS!

BRINGING OUT THE BEST

IN THIS ISSUE

Principal's Note

Although winter break is right around the corner, college and career preparation has not taken a break. This week at El Monte was filled with opportunities for staff and students to rise to the challenge of student success. We began with instructional rounds on Tuesday. This was a great opportunity to analyze the school's achievement in regards to our Problem of Practice. Team's comprised of committed educators, took on the task of analyzing and comprising data that we will share with the entire staff at our next meeting. A special thank you to all our teachers who participated.

On Thursday Night, parents were invited to an informational meeting regarding the ELPAC Academy that we will be

kicking off after winter break. Parents had an opportunity to learn about the importance of language reclassification and exactly where their scholar is in meeting that criteria. Parents also learned of the after school support that we are offering in preparation for the ELPAC assessment in February.

We ended the week with a bang as 6th grade students had the opportunity to visit Reedley College for the Central Valley Promise Kick Off! Students were given a tour of the school and were able to hear about the opportunities that are available to them at this local college. It was evident by student engagement that this study trip had a positive effect on them. We look forward to seeing our students answer the call of being college bound!

-Marlena



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University of California—Riverside is a public institution that was founded in 1954. It has a total undergraduate enrollment of 20,069, its setting is city, and the campus size is 1,200 acres. It utilizes a quarter-based academic calendar. University of California—Riverside's ranking in the 2019 edition of Best Colleges is National Universities, 85. Its in-state tuition and fees are \$13,887 (2018-19); out-of-state tuition and fees are \$42,879 (2018-19).



About 70 percent of UCR students are commuters, and freshmen do not have to live on campus. Students may want to hang around after class,

however, for notable annual events like the fall Block Party and Spring Splash. There are more than 300 student organizations to check out, too, including about 40 fraternities and sororities. Freshmen can ease into college with the help of the First Year Success Series, a combination of seminars and workshops that teach students study and time management skills. Riverside is in an ideal location for road trips, with Disneyland and Orange County within a 40-mile drive and Los Angeles about 60 miles away.

-Mario

Coaches' Collective

Setting a Purpose for Reading

Setting a purpose for reading helps keep students focused and engaged while reading, and gives them a mission so that comprehension can be reinforced. **AVID** suggests that you present the purpose, the task, and the outcome desired before reading begins. As a science teacher, who is trying to use articles and reading strategies in class, I decided to try it and see if it made a difference. This what I came up with:

Purpose: We are reading this article today to reinforce the things we have learned about Mitosis and Meiosis.

Task: You will read the article and underline in green any facts about Mitosis and underline in

yellow any facts about Meiosis. Use both colors to underline things that are the same for both mitosis and meiosis.

Outcome: You and your partner will create a Venn Diagram comparing and contrasting Mitosis and Meiosis.

Was it successful? Yes. Could I have done things differently? Yes. But here are some of the things I noticed. First, I didn't have to answer a million questions about why they had to read it and what they had to do because students referred to the board and knew the answers. Second, table partners were using academic language as they worked to create their Venn Diagrams. Third, student engagement was up. Basically, everyone was working to get things done.

I have tried this several other times since this initial activity. I believe it sets the tone for the lesson more specifically than the lesson objective does and shows students the road map or the plan for the day. It works for a regular lesson too! Give students the reason to do something, what you want them to do and what they need to produce by the end of the class period. See if you notice any differences in student engagement that day.

-Mindy

Upcoming Events

12/17/18-12/21/18	Mrs. Troncozo & Mrs. Green to SCICON
12/19/18	El Monte Data Review 8am-9am
12/20/18	El Monte Athletic Banquet

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