

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

ENVIRONMENT - East Middle School will be a safe and orderly place to learn. First priority will be given to campus safety and to maintaining an orderly learning environment where learning can flourish.

INTEGRITY - Faculty members will capitalize on all opportunities to teach and reinforce marks of character and integrity. At all times, students will learn and demonstrate marks of character and integrity, including: compassion, responsibility, self-control, respect, courage, perseverance, good citizenship, trustworthiness, and honesty.

PROFESSIONALISM - All staff members will demonstrate or exceed commonly accepted and established standards of professionalism with the understanding that being a professional educator is more than just a job, it is the high calling of molding young lives, and also recognizing that each individual is a representation of the entire team at East Middle School.

EXPECTATIONS - All students will be expected to follow directions, apply themselves, work hard, complete all assignments, prepare for tests, produce quality work, demonstrate neat cursive penmanship, and strive for excellence.

OBJECTIVE - East Middle School's purpose is first and foremost academic. Teachers play the primary and essential role of determining, preparing, and orchestrating pedagogically sound instruction. Students and parents must recognize, value, and support the purpose of school and the role of the teacher for academic growth to be sustained.

STANDARDS - California Standards for the Teaching Profession and California Content Standards shall drive instruction. Lessons will be well prepared, engaging, challenging, and purposeful. Assignments will be graded, constructive feedback frequent, and achievement documented.

TEAMWORK - East Middle School must operate as a team, with all staff members supporting each other, striving toward common and agreed upon goals, and accepting extra responsibilities as needed.

Misunderstandings must be handled promptly between the individuals involved. Deference, consideration, and goodwill are essential between colleagues.

ATMOSPHERE - East recognizes that students and staff must feel safe and be safe in order to devote proper attention and energy to our academic goals. Rules must be enforced, facilities must be maintained, and distractions must be minimized for learning to flourish. Additionally, an attractive campus fosters school pride and a sense of order and well being.

GRADES - The Downey Unified School District grading scale will be adhered to. Grades will be objective and well documented. Efforts at communication with parents will be consistently pursued, to enlist their help and support, and in order that grades should never come as a surprise.

COMMUNITY - An essential element for students to succeed is the support of families for their education. East covets, solicits, and appreciates the support of parents. Proper regard is given to differences in culture or belief. East recognizes that the primary responsibility for raising a child rests with their parents, and respects that.

CULTURE - East strives to shape students' goals and interests to an appreciation of civility, integrity, excellence, intelligence, success, and virtue. In our efforts to engage middle school students in thinking and learning, we will not cater to adolescent immaturity, capitulate to social delinquency, or enlist popular culture that does not represent the highest expectations we have for our students.

GOALS - Students must be encouraged and assisted in setting goals. Each student will be encouraged and prepared to go to college, with the recognition that the opportunities for each individual are greatly multiplied with a sound education and a college degree. To that end, East will strive to maintain a college preparatory atmosphere.