

FONTANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD • SPRING 1996

Alder Middle School

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A Message from the Principal

The School Accountability Report Card was established by Proposition 98, an initiative passed by the California voters in November 1988. The Report Card, to be issued annually by local school boards for each elementary and secondary school in the state, provided parents and other interested people a variety of information about the school, its resources, its successes, and the areas in which improvements are needed.

As you read this Report Card for Alder Middle School, I believe you will find that what emerges is a picture of a school with a record of improvement, a faculty that is professionally skilled and personally committed to meeting the learning needs of students, an a student population which has outstanding educational and auxilliary services available to help each young person reach ultimate success.

The fontana Unified School District continues to experience student growth. To reduce the possibility of overcrowding, the junior high schools opened as middle schools in the fall of 1992. Alder Middle School serves 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

Alder's program provides a non-threatening environment where children can find success. Meaningful and relevant curriculum meets the academic, social and emotional needs of the middle school youngster. The program focuses on the use of technology across the curriculum. Updating and enhancing Alder's computer program is an ongoing process.

A major part of Alder's Academic Excellence Program will be the way business is conducted. Students in our immediate attendance area will be given first priority. Parents, students and Alder administration will sign a contract agreeing to certain conditions such as curriculum requirements, attendance, dress code (uniforms), and behavior. Alder would like to cap the student population at 1300 (Alder's present population) which would reflect the ethnic ratio in the district. If the need arises, a waiting list will be created. Accommodation will be made for those students who are in Alder's attendance area who do not wish to attend Alder's Academic Excellence School.

Alder students will be required to wear a uniform which will consist of a grey top and black pants, shorts or skirts. Students will also be able to wear a grey hooded sweatshirt or a purple nylon windbreaker.

Alder will continue to offer an advisory class four times a week for 25 minutes. The core curriculum for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students will offer classes in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Physical Education will be a requirement at each grade level. Sixth grade students will be required to take at least one semester of Reading as well as one quarter each of Study Skills and Keyboarding. Seventh grade students will be placed on an Exploratory Wheel where they may experience quarter classes of Art 1, Ceramics 1, Computers 1, or Technology/Life Skills.

Band and choir will remain year-long courses for those students who qualify to take them. Program for special education, ESL/Bilingual and GATE students will continue to provide services to those students in Alder's attendance area. Technology will play a key role in the lives of every student at Alder in a variety of ways - - - from computer and keyboarding classes to reinforcement of skills in a computer lab to experiencing Alder's Technology Lab.

Lynette Forte, Principal
 Alder Middle School

School Description

Alder Middle School is one of five middle schools in the Fontana Unified School District. Over the past several years the student population in the district has changed rapidly, and today Alder Middle School is a rich mixture of Caucasian, Hispanic, Black, and Asian students. The 1334 students are divided roughly as follows: White - 18%; Hispanic - 63%; Black - 17%; and Other - 2%.

Alder's goal as a Magnet Program continues to be working together with parents to make the middle grade years productive, meaningful and memorable for students. Our ultimate goal is to build creative productive citizens for the 21st Century.

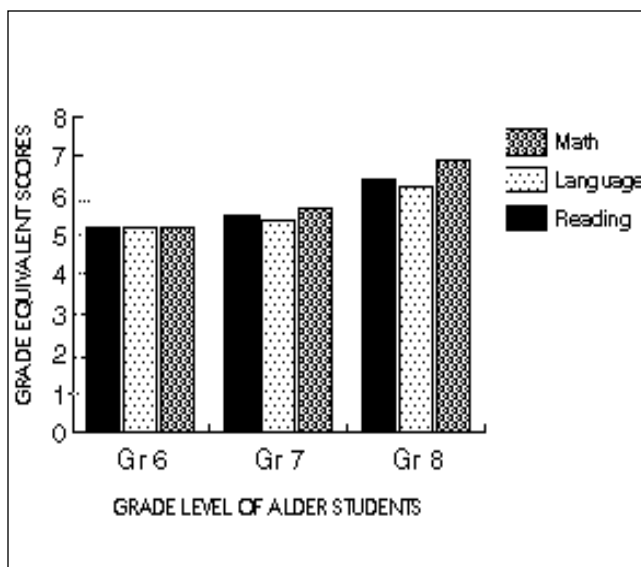
Alder's Mission Statement as a Magnet Program is:

- M - Making parents, students and staff accountable
- A - Allowing teachers to teach
- G - Guarenteed keys to success
- N - Nuturing students/nuturing atmosphere
- E - Excellence in education
- T - Total involvement (students, parents, community)

INDICATORS OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOOL

Student Achievement

This graph represents results from Reading, Language and Math sections of the ITBS Achievement Test for Alder Middle School. Our students took this test in the Spring of 1995. The ITBS is a standardized, multiple choice test, and the results compare our students according to a national "norm" group. Students from various parts of the United States took this test to establish the "norm" or expected scores for students at each grade level. The bars on the graph indicate the average "Grade Equivalent" scores for each grade level at Alder.



Expenditures & Services Offered

Although funding in many budget categories for Alder Middle School is established in the District budget adopted by the Board of Education, valuable information is available at the school site. The following are significant:

- a) In 1995-96 the school received funding in categorical accounts as follows:
 School Improvement - \$131,990; Chapter II - \$7,603;
 EIA/LEP - \$5,790; Textbook Allocation - \$13,240

Attendance Rate

Attendance at Alder Middle School continues to improve. Ninety-nine percent of our students attend regularly. Cooperation between the parents and the school is necessary to maintain this exemplary level of attendance.

INDICATORS OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOOL (Continued)

Class Sizes and Teaching Loads

As a result of an agreement negotiated with the Fontana Teachers Association the district staff was at an average of 30 students per class. Obviously, individual classes may be higher or lower depending on the course. There are 54 full time teachers at Alder along with 9 instructional aides.

1995/96 Distribution of Children for Each Teacher

Below you will find a breakdown of the number of classes and the number of students in the classes. Keep in mind the smaller classes indicate classes for learning handicapped students and the larger classes include physical education classes, band, choir, etc.

<u>NUMBER OF CLASSES</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
36	5
15	10
18	15
32	20
46	25
81	30
75	35
9	40
5	45
6	50
4	55

Textbooks & Instructional Materials

The district provides Alder Middle School with textbooks and supplemental instructional material to support the school's program. A district committee comprised of teachers and administrators selection is made for the district. Consistent with school policy all textbooks are within the seven year adoption cycle.

Alder Middle School students have access to an abundance of instructional materials and book including good literature in the classroom and school library. Manipulatives, models and "hands on" equipment are available for math and science instruction.

Textbooks have been adopted as follows:

- 1993-94 Science
- 1994-95 Mathematics
- 1994-95 Language Arts

Counseling & Student Support Services

Our school enjoys the services of a full-time librarian, two counselors, part-time speech therapist, psychologists, an adaptive P.E. teacher, a nurse, a five-hour health clerk, two community aides, and a Fontana Police school resource officer. The present ratio of seven hundred students per counselor is far from adequate, but basically our academic counseling needs are being met.

Teacher Assignment

Every teacher in Alder Middle School is properly certified to teach at the appropriate grade level and is teaching classes that he/she were specifically trained to teach.

Substitute Teachers

As is the case with all surrounding school districts, the Fontana Unified School District is not always able to find substitutes who are qualified to teach in our school. On occasion, when this occurs, our teachers substitute during their conference period.

School Facilities and Safety

The recent influx of students has created problems of space that are being relieved with the use of temporary trailer classrooms. Approximately 37% of the student population at Alder Middle School attends classes in these units.

According to the Standard School Crime Report for the second semester of 1994-95, there were 262 safety related incidents at Alder Middle School. This normally includes fights which are grounds for suspension, several types of vandalism and property crimes, and incidents related to weapons, substance abuse or graffiti.

Classroom Discipline & Climate for Learning

There is general agreement among all school staff on the instructional goals of the school, the policy for maintaining order and the need for everyone to cooperate. The school and District administration have been especially supportive of the on-going process of improving our instructional and discipline programs. Each parent is provided with a copy of our school's discipline plan at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment. The plan includes state, district and school guidelines.

As a result of Alder's Magnet Program, referrals to the office are down 36%, suspensions are down 73%, and expulsions are down 46%.

Quality of Instruction & Leadership

There is a variety of programs on the campus to meet the diversity of the student needs. These programs include: Special education classes for those students with special needs, honors classes for students who are gifted and talented, bilingual classes for students whose primary language is other than English, peer counseling, mental health counseling, and Arrow Counseling services.

Teacher Evaluation & Professional Improvement

In accordance with the negotiated contract, all permanent teachers in the Fontana Unified School District are evaluated on a two-year cycle. The evaluation procedures used are consistent with the research on useful evaluation and State law, and administrators are fully trained in using the instrument.

Probationary teachers (those working less than two years in the District) are observed at least three times per year and receive two formal evaluations annually.

Training & Curriculum Improvement

Alder Middle School has a plan for training and curriculum development which was developed jointly by the teachers and the administration after much research and discussion. Features of the plan include: opportunities for teachers to observe and coach each other, travel to select conferences, the use of consultants from the department of instruction at the local universities, the District Staff Development Department and from outside the District. Teachers are also trained in the use of technology through a two-week summer technology institute. We are most appreciative of the days of student non-attendance when teachers spend entire days acquiring new teaching skills and developing new programs.

Salary Reporting 1995-96

The law requires we report our salary structure compared to similar district statewide averages. The most current data provided by the California Department of Education is for the 1995-96 school year.

The lowest beginning teachers' annual salary is \$28,280 for 182 days of service or \$155.38 per day. The statewide average for beginning teachers in districts similar to ours is \$26,980 annually.

The average mid-range salary is \$42,600 for 182 days of service or \$228.57 per day in our district. The statewide mid-range salary is \$42,403 in districts similar to ours.

The highest salary for a teacher in our district is \$53,182 or \$292.21 per day in our district. The statewide average for the highest paid teachers in districts similar to ours is \$49,859.

All teachers salaries represent 42.7% of the total budget.

Principals' salaries vary according to time in the position and work year; however, when salaries are averaged for all such principals, their annual averaged salary is \$62,399 or 299.77 per day of service. The statewide average for principals is \$67,192.

Our district superintendents' salaries vary based on responsibility; however, when salaries were averaged their annual average salary (1994-95) was \$90,124 which equal 0.3% of the total budget. Superintendents are paid to work 220 days excluding weekends, holidays, and vacation at an average daily rate of \$409.65. They are responsible for the services performed by 2,414 certificated and classified employees and for about 31,000 students. Data is not available for districts with similar numbers of students; however, the 1994-95 state average for superintendents in similar districts was \$114,830.

All certificated and classified administrative salaries and board stipends in our district represent 4.53% of the total budget.