



## LA CIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Amphitheater Governing Board  
FROM: Christine Sullivan  
RE: Principal's Governing Board Presentation  
DATE: September 28, 2015

### La Cima Middle School

#### Vision

*Empowering and Inspiring Students to Dream, Believe, and Achieve*

#### Mission

*To develop a community of learners, dedicated to academic excellence and service to the community*

#### Values

Achievement, caring, creativity, curiosity, diligence, diversity, fairness, honesty, kindness, respectfulness, responsibility, and service to the community

#### We Believe

- All students can learn and achieve.
- Learning is continuous and life-long.
- Schools should be caring and safe places.
- Teachers are stronger when they work together.
- Education requires a committed and collective effort from all stakeholders.

La Cima Middle School is located on the east side of La Canada between Orange Grove and River Roads. La Cima holds high expectations for all members of the school community. Moreover, La Cima believes in a personalized approach to education, offering a variety of opportunities to meet the needs of a diverse group of students. Specifically, there are a variety of course offerings designed to promote academic rigor and to provide academic support. For example, students who excel have the opportunity to take Advanced Language Arts, Social Studies Humanities, high school credit Algebra or Geometry, and high school credit Spanish. Students with a high-interest in STEM can choose between Engineering, Robotics, Coding and Odyssey of the Mind. Furthermore, students who are below grade level in reading or math are scheduled into a block math class or a study skills class in place of an elective. Finally, students in the academic middle, normally the most underserved students, are enrolled in our AVID program. This college-readiness system is committed to closing the achievement gap “by preparing all students for college-readiness and success in a global society”. The

La Cima staff members are committed to student success and possess “whatever it takes” attitudes.

**Cultural and Demographic Data:**

- Enrollment: 446 Students (149 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 140 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and 157 8<sup>th</sup> graders)
- Feeder Elementary Schools: Walker, Nash, and Rio Vista
- La Cima has a very small ELL population (3.7%) – 2014-2015 school year.
- 15% of our student population was identified gifted in at least one area in the 2014-2015 school year.
- Students receiving Special Education services make up 18% of our school population
- Average Daily attendance rate in 2014-2015 was 94.2%
- Student Mobility Rate in 2014-2015 was 22.3%.
- On the La Cima campus we have a self-contained classroom for students identified with severe social/emotional/behavioral disabilities and there are 7 students in this program.
- 82% of students at La Cima Middle School qualify for free and reduced lunch.
- La Cima is not a neighborhood school. Our attendance area spans a large area ranging from Orange Grove on the North to Grant Road on the South and from Oracle and Stone on the East to Shannon and the Rillito River on the West.
- La Cima requires students to wear uniforms.
- The school was built in 1991 and benefited from a bond project in 2009 that resulted in a new administration building, library and six classrooms.
- La Cima was the first school in the Amphitheater District to have AVID.

**Instructional Programs:**

- REACH Program (Humanities) for Gifted and Talented Advanced Students
- Special Education Services
- Advanced Language Arts
- Inquiry-based Science (Earth, Space, Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- Intervention Courses (Math Lab, Study Skills focusing on reading using iReady)
- AVID Elective Classes in grades 7 and 8
- STEM Courses (Engineering, Robotics, Coding and Odyssey of the Mind)
- Full-time Certified Librarian

**Extra-Curricular Activities:**

- Athletics
- Student Council
- Science Fair
- National Junior Honor Society
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

To enrich the educational environment and provide for many diverse student interests, a wide variety of special events/activities are provided to La Cima students.

- Parent Information Night/Open House
- Quarterly Honor Roll Breakfasts
- School Dances
- Fine Arts Nights
- Orchestra, Band, Choir concerts
- The Forum Music Festival for Band, Orchestra and Choir Students
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Shadowing Day
- Spelling Bee
- AVID College Fieldtrips
- AVID Parent Engagement Activities

**Data of Interest:**

Arizona LEARNS -“B” Rating 2012, 2013, 2014

AIMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science (2015):

- 60% of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students met or exceeded the AIMS Science test, up from 45% the previous year.

The chart below shows the NWEA (MAP) scores from 2014-2015 comparing our scores to the National Norms:

	6th	7th	8th
Math	227/N=225.3	232/N=228.6	235/N=230.9
Reading	217/N=215.8	221/N=218.2	224 /N=220.1

- Spring RIT scores were above the typical average Spring RIT
- Math and Reading RIT growth was above the district average in grades 6 and 7

The chart below shows the history of AVID Enrollment at La Cima:

Grade	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
6			21	31	43	40	23
7	22	22	25	29	46	50	55
8		23	21	28	45	49	52
Total	22	45	67	88	134	139	130

**School Improvement Goals for the 2015-2016 School Year:**

1. Increase overall reading achievement proficiency in all grades as measured by 100% of students meeting their Spring Growth Target Scores on NWEA MAP.
2. Increase overall math achievement proficiency in all grades as measured by 100% of students meeting their Spring Growth Target Scores on NWEA MAP.
3. Increase the Science passing rates for 8<sup>th</sup> grade from 60% to 70% as measured by the Spring 2016 AIMS.
4. Increase student engagement in all classrooms through the use of high-yield strategies.
5. As measured by Tyler Student Management System, La Cima Middle School will have at least a 95% attendance rate.