

CASE STUDY BRIEF

Since 2013, the Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21) has annually designated 21st Century Learning Exemplars based upon exceptional implementation of the [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#).

Each year, P21 has highlighted a cohort of early learning centers, K–12 schools, school districts, and beyond school programs in the U.S. as 21st Century Learning Exemplars. Now that P21 is a network of Battelle for Kids, we are leading together in celebrating the current year of 21st Century Learning Exemplars.

As part of celebrating these awardees, Battelle for Kids and its P21 network provide ways for their stories and impactful practices to be shared with others. This case study brief and those for the other awardees provide powerful insights to guide other school districts, schools, and programs so that every child can experience the best of 21st century learning experiences.



Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy Vacaville, CA

With a focus on preparing their students for an indeterminate future, Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy (KPSVA) offers rigorous, research-based instruction that enables students to understand their strengths and abilities and navigate their role in the world of tomorrow.

Grades Served: Transitional K–8

Enrollment: 550 Students

Founded in 2013

[Website](#)

Recipient of 2017, 2018, and 2019 Civic Learning Award of Merit co-sponsored by the Chief Justice and California State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy

Vacaville, CA

Momentum

With a mission to empower learners to “think critically, analyze, and apply knowledge strategically, and utilize relevant tools to interact thoughtfully within a global community,” Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy believes strongly in showcasing students and providing opportunities for them to publicly demonstrate transference of knowledge, a dynamic testament to the school’s mission statement.

Grade 8 students engage in specific project-based learning assignments in their final year connected to 21st century learning outcomes culminating in a capstone event, called Momentum. A truly cross-curricular collaboration between all middle school instructional staff, rubrics are revised annually to ensure adherence to new research and best practices within the field as well as fidelity to the school-wide learning outcomes: responsible citizenship, effective communicators, critical thinkers, and self-directed learners.

City Council members, Vacaville District leadership, and local business and community leaders serve as reviewers at the summative event and provide feedback on the students’ presentations and portfolios. Students are interviewed about their digital product and their time at the school, a dialogue about their readiness for the next stage in their academic journey and the skills and competencies they’ve acquired that will enable them to fulfil the Kairos mission and become global ambassadors and leaders within their community.



Community Service and Impact

KPSVA has an unwavering commitment to community service. Yearly student volunteer hours hover at or above 5,000 at 75 locations across Solano County. Parents also provide more than 10,000 hours of service to the school as well as projects that students and staff undertake.

Service is required across all grades at Kairos, with Transitional Kindergarten through grade 2 students focusing on opportunities at the school, grades 3–5 students focusing on their local community, and middle-school students turning their eye to the state and national level. Administrative and instructional staff model behavior by seeking out opportunities to give back to the community.

Kairos students recently raised more than \$7,000 to support Paradise Camp Fire survivors, and a group visited the California State Capital in March 2019 to attend a charter advocacy rally.



All grade 8 students are required to take a Community Leader Class which focuses on service and citizenship skills. Each Community Leader student is required to complete 30 hours of volunteering. The class leads various positive culture activities on campus, such as Jump Rope for Heart, Pennies for Patients that support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Societies, and a Community Heroes Day to honor first responders in the community.

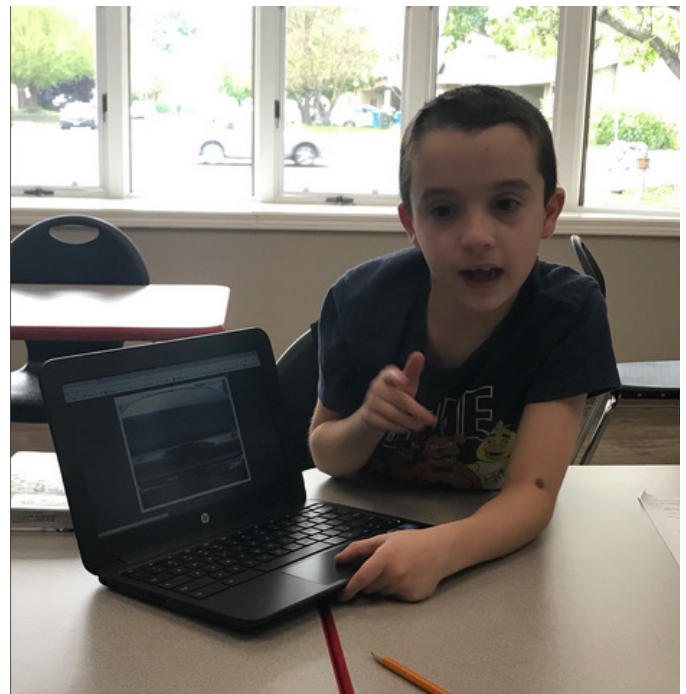
The school also supports 90 students in their Kairos Innovative Scholars Program, a K-8 independent home study program. Credentialed teachers facilitate regular programming, and more than 27 different enrichment workshops are offered annually, with one focused entirely on community service.

Scholar Ambassadors and Positive Mentoring Culture

Along with the school's commitment to community service, Kairos has established a Scholar Ambassador Program. The program is comprised of 50+ middle school students who have been tasked with the express purpose to build and sustain a positive school culture.

Focusing on peer mediation and conflict resolution, these scholars provide team-building activities to various lower-grade classrooms and lead restorative justice circles. They also serve as a vital stakeholder group that provides input on various school-wide programs that focus on character development and leadership empowerment.

Scholar Ambassadors are frequently recruited to speak at public forums and board meetings, advocating for their fellow students on needed improvements. Many scholars are also Patriot Pals, older students who assist the younger grades with reading, writing, and computer literacy. To ensure robust digital literacy, the Patriot Pals also teach the first and second graders how to use Google Apps for Education features and demonstrate functionality on various mobile devices that they will encounter in their time at the school.



2019 21ST CENTURY LEARNING EXEMPLARS

Each of the following earned this year's award for its outstanding practices in equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in college, career, and life:

Early Learning

The Goddard School Located in Broadview Heights
(Broadview, OH)

The Goddard School Located in Simpsonville
(Simpsonville, SC)

K-12 Schools

Canyon Crest Elementary School (Fontana, CA)

Elon Elementary School (Elon, NC)

EVSC New Tech Institute (Evansville, IN)

Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design
(San Antonio, TX)

Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy (Vacaville, CA)

Kensington Elementary School (Waxhaw, NC)

Moreno Valley High School (Moreno Valley, CA)

Saint Ambrose School (Brunswick, OH)

Santiago Charter Middle School (Orange, CA)

Valley View High School (Moreno Valley, CA)

Vineyard STEM Magnet (Ontario, CA)

Vista Heights Middle School (Moreno Valley, CA)

Wolf Springs Elementary School (Overland Park, KS)

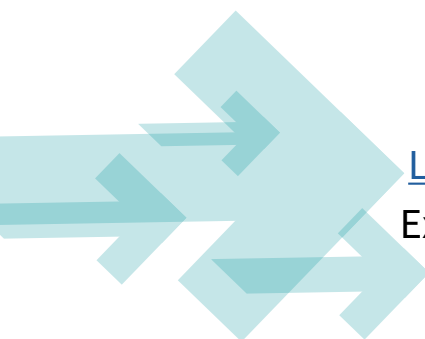
Districts

Lennox School District (Lennox, CA)

Vicksburg Warren School District (Vicksburg, MS)

Beyond School Programs

Camp Champions (Marble Falls, TX)



[Learn more](#) about the 21st Century Learning Exemplars at: bfk.me/p21_ExemplarProgram