

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.



Canyon Crest Elementary School Fontana, CA

With a growth-mindset culture, Canyon Crest Elementary School takes seriously its aim to foster a conducive learning environment for all its students to develop into caring and thoughtful lifelong learners.

Grades Served: K–12

Enrollment: 550 Students

Founded in 2017

[Website](#)

Of the 30 elementary schools in the district, Canyon Crest Elementary School had the lowest chronic absence percentage at 6.43%

Canyon Crest Elementary School

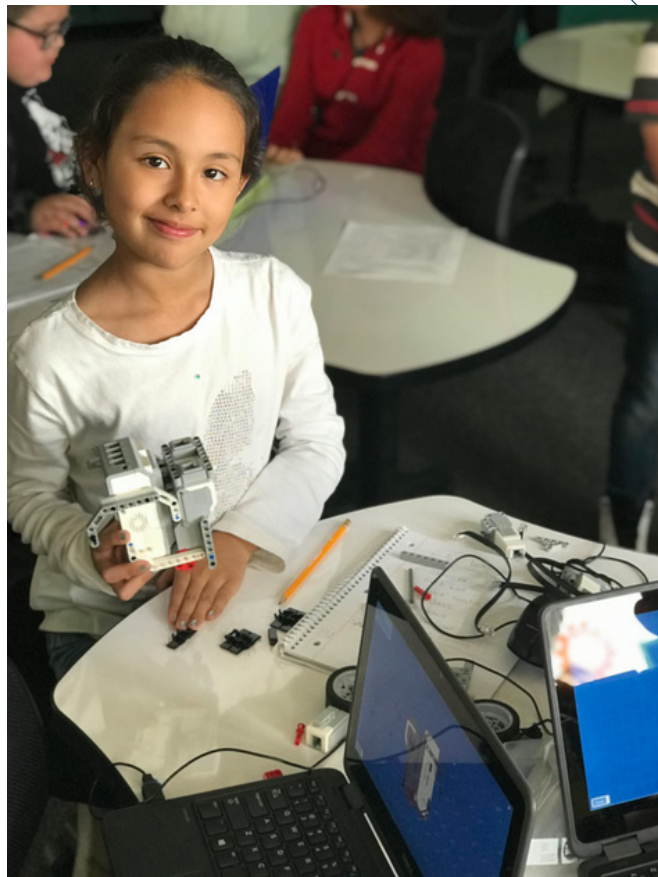
Fontana, CA

Growth Mindset

Through an integrated, school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, Canyon Crest Elementary School provides weekly social skills and growth mindset lessons. Woven into every aspect of the culture, the school provides ongoing professional development and all-staff required reading of Dr. Carol Dweck's *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. School leaders and staff do this as an intentional way to shift the personality and tone of the school, which in turn increases engagement and attendance and decreases suspensions and behavioral incidents.

Meticulously tracking and analyzing feedback, Canyon Crest continuously iterates programming based on evidence and is committed to a data-driven approach with school-wide goals. Growth-mindset posters provide reinforcement on classroom walls and in the hallways, and the entire Canyon Crest community—including parents, classroom aides, and administrative staff—are all well-versed in the importance and impact of fostering a growth mindset in all aspects of life.

By providing this common understanding and shared language, Canyon Crest has seen a dramatic shift in school-wide attitudes. Weekly counselor classroom sessions further support teachers. Training provided based on Ruby Payne's *Framework for Understanding Poverty* is an essential foundation at Canyon Crest—a Title 1 school that has 100% free or reduced lunch.



Engaged Parent and Family Community

Understanding the importance of the family unit in a child's development, Canyon Crest has increased its family services and maintains an active Family Involvement Action Team. Of note is the WatchD.O.G.S. program (Dads of Great Students). WatchD.O.G.S. volunteer daily to help supervise the playground area and nearby crosswalks while also providing valuable mentorship and positive role modeling. With additional opportunities for ongoing relationship building through breakfasts and dances, the Canyon Crest WatchD.O.G.S. community remains very engaged and contributes to a palpable feeling of warmth and safety, promoting a secure environment for students and their families to learn and grow.

Taking it one step further, the school completely overhauled the daily bell schedule to accommodate their student population. After observing that a number of students were arriving to school early and waiting outside, Canyon Crest shifted to an earlier start time while also increasing endcap enrichment activities, such as fitness and coding. The intention was to provide much-needed



coverage and ensure that all aspects of family life were being considered. This unique practice within the district required thoughtful and careful negotiations to maintain state-mandated collective bargaining unit expectations and respect staff needs.

Leadership

The collaborative spirit that allowed for the expanding of before- and after-school programming to meet the student population's needs is, in large part, a reflection of the leadership culture at Canyon Crest Elementary School. With an all-hands-on-deck mentality, the 4Cs are on full display at the school.

Placing a premium on the human relationship aspects of maintaining a highly effective school, administrative staff create a culture of distributed leadership, trusting their teaching and support staff to step up and provide direction in all areas of the school.

All instructional staff are on at least one leadership team, which includes the Instructional Leadership Team, the Student Intervention Team, and the Positive Behavior Support Team.

Leadership encourages teachers to pilot new programming or initiatives based on their strengths and interests, such as the Innovation and Makerspaces or the engineering after-school program, and teachers are often tapped to write or co-write key grant proposals.



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