



Torch Middle School

A California Distinguished School

751 North Vineland Ave. , City of Industry CA 91746-1914

Phone (626) 931-2700 ▪ Fax (626) 931-2707

Principal: Gabriel A. Griego

Grade Levels: 6-8

District: Basset Unified School District

School Year: Traditional



2010 Support Personnel Accountability Report Card

A continuous improvement document sponsored by the California Department of Education and Los Angeles County Office of Education

Principal's Message

Torch Middle School Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT), administration and staff is committed to academic excellence and is dedicated to the personal development of each student. We have been recognized as a *California Distinguished School, Title I Academic Achievement Award School* for 3 years in a row, and a *California School To Watch™ - Taking Center Stage Model School*. This year Torch has been nominated to apply for the *2010 Blue Ribbon School Award*. Eight years ago we were identified as one of the lowest performing middle schools in the state. Today, we are one of the top performing schools in California. We believe that it is through our community support, caring parents and highly dedicated staff that our school is such a success. In addition, the SSPT plays a vital role to ensure a safe, clean, and orderly environment for all students. In collaboration with the administrative team, the SSPT implements the American Counselor Association National Standards for School Counseling Programs. The prevalence of these standards serves as a vehicle to tailor our services as they relate to students' personal/social, academic, and career/college development. Two areas of improvement that Torch Middle School will focus on next year are 1) conduct English Language Development Saturday classes for students and 2) increase student awareness about cyber bullying, prejudice, and racism by hosting a conducting "Mix It Up Day" to teach about tolerance. The Support Personnel Accountability Report Card (SPARC) will be incorporated into the school site plan.

Student Support Personnel Team

Students at Torch Middle School are served by a comprehensive and cohesive SSPT dedicated to the implementation of the National Standards. This exemplary team works closely to deliver services in the personal/social, academic, and career/college domains. Under the direction of our counselor and in collaboration with other educators, they design, coordinate, implement, and evaluate an equitable student support system that serves all students. All SSPT certificated members hold appropriate credentials which meet the, "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) guidelines for highly qualified staff. Our SSPT members also belong to professional organizations in their discipline, such as American School Counseling Association, California Association of School Counselors, Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, National Association of School Psychologists, California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and the National Notary Association. Our SSPT is comprised of the following:

Team Member	Education	Team Member	Education
Principal	Master's Degree	YMCA Case Worker	Bachelor's Degree
Assistant Principal	Master's Degree	Los Angeles County Probation Officer	Bachelor's Degree
Counselor	Master's Degree	Language Speech Therapist	Master's Degree
School Psychologist (2)	Doctorate Degree	Secretaries & Office Staff (2)	Various Levels
MFT (3)	Master's Degree	Campus Supervisors (5)	Various Levels
Special Education Teachers (2)	Master's Degree	Graduate Student Interns (5)	Bachelor's Degree

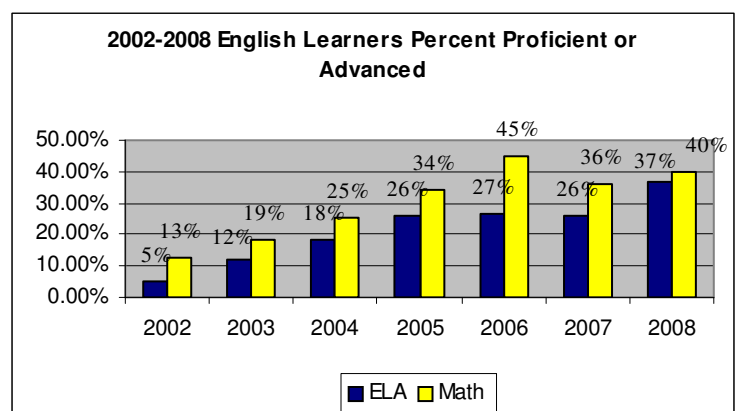
Torch provides educational services to a 94% Hispanic population, 80% of whom are designated socio-economically disadvantaged and 27% English Language Learners (ELL). In 2001, Torch embarked on a program to reshape its student's poor performance. Coming from a low Academic Performance Index (API) of 480 in 2008, Torch has now achieved API 800. The success of our student support program is attributed to our entire staff including administrators, teachers, classified employees, as well as parents and other community members. Student Success Team (SST) meetings, 504 plans, Individualized Education Plan (IEP), parent teacher conferences, and home visits all help to contribute to our student success.

School Climate and Safety

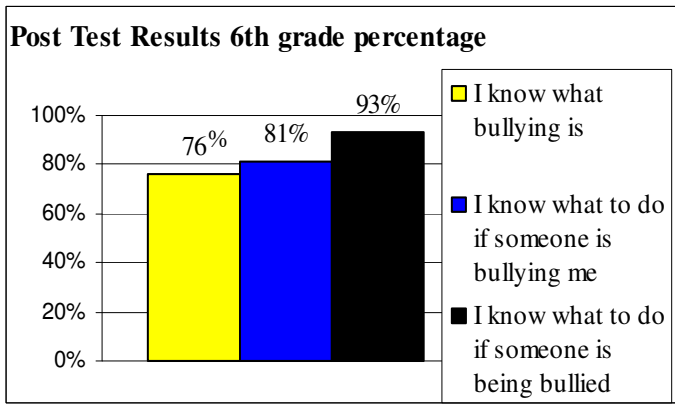
We continue our push to create a safe campus and a culture of learning and have carried this theme throughout the programs and activities of our student support team. Our School Safety Committee is actively involved in and committed to Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) compliance.

Academic intervention programs continue to show positive results. Our intervention program, "Interactive Student Meetings," (ISM's) target our English Learner (EL) students who have not yet scored Proficient or Advanced in the California Standards Test (CST). Counselors and support staff meet with students to explain the criteria needed to exit the EL program and the importance on their future goals. The students are given their individual CST and EL data in which they learn why they were still an EL student and set goals to exit the program. They sign a contract and review it with their parents. The results of the ISM's after one year were so positive (see accompanying chart) that it has now been implemented with all of our EL population this year.

To assist in our anti-bullying campaign, all Torch students participate in guidance lessons that specifically target their grade level. In 6th grade for example, the counselor uses the "Stop Bullying Now" video to show the 6th grade students what they can do to help themselves and others who are being bullied. The post test results



shows that 93% of the 6th grade students know what to do if they see someone being bullied.



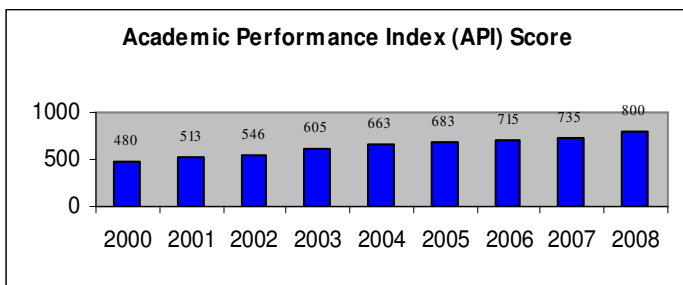
Torch has also implemented Michael William's and John Winslade's "Undercover Teams" approach to address severe bullying behavior. The counselor first meets with the victim of the bullying. Then the student, counselor and teacher select 6 other students including the main bully to form an "undercover team". The counselor meets with the team and they agree to help the victim but no names are ever mentioned as to who the bully is. They set up a plan that the undercover team will follow. Once a week the counselor meets with the team and victim separately to get updates on the bullying. Once the team and the victim report no more bullying, then team is rewarded with an Award from the principal and a special treat. Parents can also call the office (626) 931-2700 to report any bullying and a SSPT member will address the issue.

Student Results

Student results are a vital component of the accountability system for our program, which is based on stated goals and student competencies adopted from the National Standards for School Counseling Programs. Reports of student outcomes, which include process, perception, and results data, ensure that our program is being carried out and that students do, in fact, have the competencies needed in each domain and at each educational level. The results are used to make decisions regarding program improvement. We now ask the question, "How are students different due to our student support program?" Our student results help answer that question. A sample of student results attained this year in three domains of guidance:

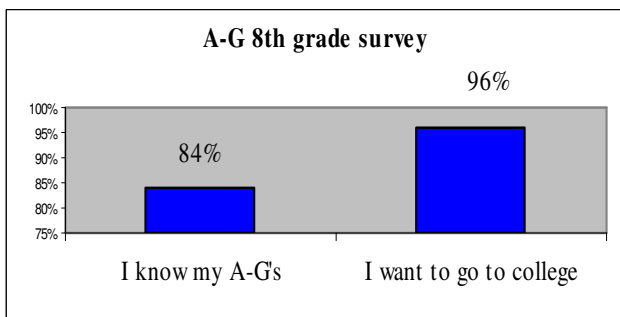
Academic Domain, Standard A: Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span.

Torch's API has improved over the last years. In addition to the hard work from students, teachers hold parent teacher conferences with 100% completion. They review the CST scores, EL status, and place students in tutoring as needed. As a result, of this communication with parents and students, our Torch students scores have gone up significantly, as shown in the following graph:



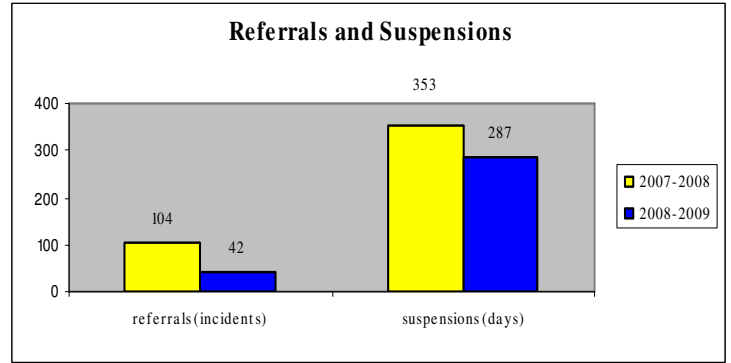
Career Domain, Standard C: Students will understand the relationship between personal qualities, education and training, and the world of work.

All 8th grade students participate in hosting a college fair for all Torch population. Teacher led lessons in all eighth grade language arts classes allow students to write to Universities and obtain information. In addition, the counselor facilitates A-G guidance lessons to all 8th grade students in order to inform and motivate them to want to attend a University.



Personal/Social Domain, Standard A: Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and inter-personal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.

The Torch counselor and counseling interns deliver guidance lessons ranging from bullying, sexual harassment, conflict resolution, and self esteem. In addition, the academic progress and social/personal well being is closely monitored. "At risk" students are enrolled in our probation officer's program. As reflected in the graph below, there has been a decrease in suspension and referrals as a result of these interventions.



Community Partnerships/Resources

Community partnerships support student success at Torch Middle School. Our partners assume a vital role in assisting us with student learning and development in the personal/social, academic, and career/college domains. These community partners provide referrals, mental health services, food and clothing resources, and college and career preparation. Our referrals to these community resources provide much needed support for students as well as their families. For example, the SSPT partners with Foothill Family Services, SPIRITT Family Services, and Children's Bureau to provide support services such as individual, group counseling, and academic motivation groups to identified students on campus. Torch also works very closely with Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) to provide food, clothing, holiday gift baskets and other necessities to our students and their families.

Personal/Social Domain:

- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Foothill Family Services
- Children's Bureau
- SPIRITT Family Services
- RESCUE (District Attorney, Los Angeles County/Firefighters Youth Program)
- Interquest Detection Canine Services
- YMCA
- Department of Children and Family Services
- East Valley Community Health Center, Inc.
- Kaiser Permanente

Academic Domain:

- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
- Jaime Escalante Math Program
- Los Angeles County Office of Education
- THINK Together After School Program
- SELPA (Special Education Local Planning Area)

Career/College Domain:

- Local universities (Point Loma University, Azusa Pacific University, and the University of La Verne) send graduate interns and field work candidates who provide academic counseling to our students.
- Students from our local high school volunteer and give a presentation about high school life and college preparation.
- Torch female students attend the Adelante Mujer Latina Teen Conference that has tailored workshops on careers and choices for education.

The SSPT welcomes parent and community members to assist all students in becoming successful. Volunteers assist in the following ways:

- Raise money for student activities
- Chaperone fieldtrips
- Provide food and gifts for student and their families in need

Please direct your request for involvement or assistance in our guidance program to our counselor Ms. Maria Herrera
 Email: mherrera@bassett.k12.ca.us
 Phone: (626) 931-2708
 Fax: (626) 931-2707