Newport-Mesa Unified School District
PreK-12 Priorities 2016-17

Academics

N-MUSD students will receive a rigorous and challenging curriculum, educated in state of the art facilities, prepared for college and career.

- The units of study will be based on the principles of Rigorous Curriculum Design and lead grade level teams will continue to expand resources available to their colleagues by recommending added instructional strategies, materials, and instructional resources.
- N-MUSD curriculum will be UC/CSU “a-g” approved and prepare students for college entrance and Career Technical programs. All College and Career preparation pathways will be aligned to high skill, high wage, and high demand occupations. Existing AVID programs will integrate the principles of AVID demonstration sites.
- The State Standards are the district’s guaranteed and viable curriculum and integrate the four C’s (critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity) of the 21st Century Skills. Through a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) students will be prevented from becoming credit deficient.
- The district’s infrastructure and curriculum design will allow students to seamlessly integrate technology in all units of study.
- Student learning and athletic environments will be safe, attractive, and state-of-the-art facilities.
- Comprehensive high schools will continue to work together to develop opportunities for students to participate in unique course offerings outside of their home school, if the student shows interest and aptitude in that area.

Expand Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate course enrollment and course offerings.

- Promote and recognize students that earn National Advanced Placement Scholar designation.
- Recruit, provide guidance, and support to prospective National Merit Scholar candidates.
- Administer the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Qualifying Test to all 8th and 10th grade students.
- High achieving and academically promising students will be offered opportunities to challenge their abilities through academic augmentations embedded in the district’s units of study.
- Develop and implement guidance programs, grades 6 -12, that will graduate college and career ready students for the 21st Century economy.
- Eliminate barriers that prevent student access to AP and IB assessments.

NMUSD classrooms will offer the highest quality instruction through rigorous lesson plans based on effective lesson designs that integrate critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

- Continue training and refining Rigorous Curriculum Design (RCD), SWUN Math, Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS), and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to develop professional capacity.
- Support ongoing implementation of each instructional initiative by expanding a trainer-trainer model.
- Support the lesson design implementation using Learning Rounds strategies to build administrator and teacher professional capacity.

Behavior

NMUSD schools will maintain high expectations for student behavior by holding all pupils accountable. Students will be taught to be responsible members of our school communities by providing them opportunities to learn from their errors in judgment.

- Continue to implement best practices in Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) that will meet or exceed the PBIS Gold Level Certification.
- Monitor the implementation of Restorative Practices/PBIS by collecting data to guide future professional staff development.
- Develop a Service Learning Model program for seniors to demonstrate the 21st Century skills necessary for students to succeed in a global economy.

Creativity & Innovation

Newport-Mesa neighborhood schools should be the first choice of students and parents. To provide enhanced options, K-12 Signature Academies will be developed with an articulated focus on college preparatory academics and arts.

- School zones will refine the two distinguished programs, one academic and one in the arts.
- Each of the school zones, Corona del Mar, Costa Mesa, Estancia, and Newport Harbor will develop K-12 Signature Academy arts and academics pathways that add creativity and innovation to an already rigorous base curriculum that continues to prepare students for success in careers and in college. Schools will have developed explicit pathways leading from feeder elementary schools through high school within 3 years.