



For Immediate Release

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FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ***Nicolas Celebrates Recognition as a School to Watch***

(Fullerton, CA) – On Tuesday, May 14, 2019, students, staff, parents, district leaders, school board members and community members will celebrate the selection of Nicolas Junior High School as one of California’s 2019 Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage model middle schools. The school will also be recognized in Virginia in late June by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

“We are so honored and thankful for this recognition and the acknowledgement of the efforts of our teachers and staff. Nicolas will continue to innovate and develop as a Schools to Watch,” stated Robyn Clemente, Principal at Nicolas Junior High School.

These high-performing model schools demonstrate academic excellence, social equity, and responsiveness to the needs of young adolescents. "These middle schools make a great impact on students, and I want to thank the staff, administrators, teachers, and parents at these schools for ensuring all students get the education they need to realize their potential," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said. "These schools study and support students’ needs, which helps close achievement gaps and creates a better future for these young students."

The celebration will feature an address to the student body on their school’s selection as a model and the presentation of a banner. Schools to Watch recognizes middle grade schools for their capacity to promote academic achievement in a safe and caring learning environment where each and every student is positioned to succeed in high school and beyond.

Nicolas Junior High School serves 7th and 8th grade students in the Fullerton School District. California’s Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage program uses a competitive, rigorous review process to identify high performing, high impact middle schools so that all middle schools may have models of real-world success. Nicolas Junior High School is one of just of 16 schools to receive the designation this year and one of 123 model schools that have been identified statewide since 2003.

The Schools to Watch program is sponsored by the California Department of Education, [California League of Middle Schools \(CLMS\)](#) , and the [California Middle Grades Alliance](#) . To earn this designation, schools must complete an extensive application that is reviewed by middle grades experts. In order to retain the designation, each school is re-evaluated every three years.. For more information about the program, please visit the [CLMS High Performing Middle School Models](#)  Web page.

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California and serves over 13,500 students in grades TK – 8th. The Fullerton School District includes 20 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8th grade schools, and three middle schools. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit www.fullertonsd.org.

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For more information, please feel free to contact Robyn Clemente/Nicolas JHS Principal at 714/447-7775