

# GRIFFITHS MIDDLE SCHOOL **THUNDERBIRDS**





Welcome  
to Griffiths

Griffiths Middle School provides students with a variety of opportunities that challenge them to be 21st century ready with robust exposure to technology and skills that will help them be globally competitive.

Along with providing academically rigorous classes, Griffiths Middle School has a powerful CHARACTER COUNTS! program that supports the development of students as citizens of strong character who we are proud to send out to the real world.



# By the Numbers



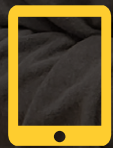
6

3D Printers available for student use



5

Classes lead to career pathways



1:1

iPad program starting Fall 2020



7

Competitive sports teams



42 million

Schoolwide renovation underway



16

Student-based clubs

# Meet Our Team



**Principal**  
Dr. Anthony Zegarra  
azegarra@dusd.net



**Vice Principal**  
Vanessa Bedolla  
vbedolla@dusd.net



**Dean of Students**  
William Wharton  
wwharton@dusd.net



**Title 1 Coordinator**  
Jayson Quimby  
jqimby@dusd.net



**Office Manager**  
Evelyn Velasco  
evelasco@dusd.net



Left to right: Michea, Donahue, and Padilla

## Our Counselors

### **Counselor (A - Ga)**

Kelly Padilla  
kpadilla@dusd.net

### **Counselor (Gb - O)**

Gianna Donahue  
gdonahue@dusd.net

### **Counselor (P - Z)**

Marcela Michea  
mmichea@dusd.net



# Creating Exemplary Citizens

The students of Griffiths Middle School are expected to demonstrate good citizenship and character, and become conscientious and moral people in their community, contributing to a better world.

As a way to promote those ideals, we encourage volunteering and fundraisings for charitable causes throughout the year.

**TRUE LASTING CONNECTIONS 5K**

**PENNIES FOR THE RAINFOREST**

**FOOD DRIVE FOR THE PTA**

**PEER TUTORING AT GMS AND PRICE ELEMENTARY**

**CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION**

**MAINTAIN GRIFFITHS'S GARDEN**

**SCHOLARSHIP HOURS**

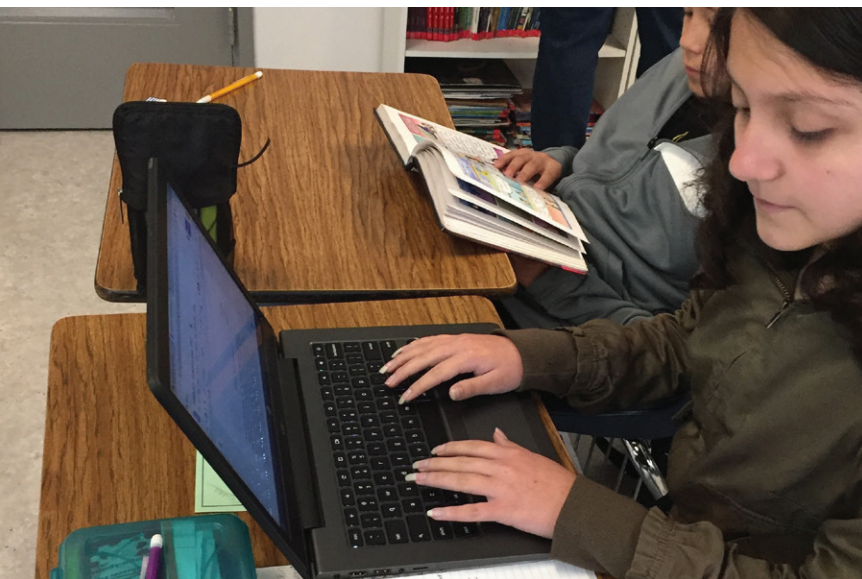
## DID YOU KNOW?

Distinguished Graduates volunteer over 100 hours of school or extra-curricular community service!

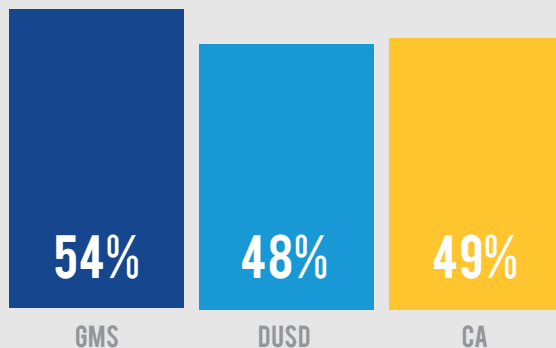


# Academic Rigor

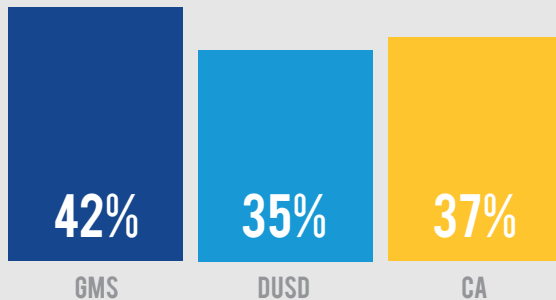
Griffiths Middle School is devoted to transforming the curriculum and instruction model in order to increase student engagement and achievement. Griffiths delivers a supportive learning environment that helps close the achievement gap and sets students up for a successful academic career.



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



## MATHEMATICS



Percentage of students meeting or exceeding standard on the 2017-2018 CAASPP



# Something for Everyone

6th Grade Scholarship Club

7th Grade Scholarship

8th Grade CJSF

Anime Club,

Bible Club

Builders Club

Ceramics Club

Chess Club

Craft Club

Girl Power Club

Library Club

Multicultural Club

Poetry Club

Pokemon Club

Robotics Club

....and MORE!



# Parent Participation

Griffiths Middle School is dedicated to encouraging student involvement in our school community, culture and vision. Fostering positive relationships and a tight-knit community allows our students to feel engaged, safe and supported.

Griffiths understands the importance of parent participation in creating that community.







# ASB

The mission of ASB (Associated Student Body) is to provide opportunities that promote school spirit and community pride for ALL students and staff.

ASB student leaders make a one year commitment to better the school environment by setting an example through their character, leadership and involvement. These students work together to plan and produce lunchtime activities, fundraisers and awards assemblies as they build valuable skills like communication, collaboration and time management.

# Visual and Performing Arts







## Visual Arts

Art Design at Griffiths enables students to create two dimensional and three dimensional works of art throughout the semester. Art making tools and instruction is designed for beginner artists but can be designed to be more challenging for the advanced artist. With art creation and the communication of ideas being the central focus areas, students will work in mediums like pen and ink, colored pencils, pastels, watercolor, tempera and acrylic paint as well as clay, woodworking and scratchart.



## Performing Arts

If you're searching for a fun elective, Drama is for you! Whether you're outgoing or shy, silly or serious, you'll have a great time in this class. You'll gain confidence in public speaking and make new friends while collaborating on projects and developing acting skills. Our mission is to provide students with a thorough understanding and respect for all aspects of the theatrical profession, from acting onstage to assisting backstage to technical design and more!



# *Music Programs*





### **Instrumental Music**

The Griffiths Band provide a unique opportunity to excel in a culture of excellence. Each of the ensembles/classes offer students a safe and community based environment to not only improve their musical skill and knowledge but to also foster critical life skills such as dedication, teamwork, self-discipline, time management and responsibility with emphasis on the six pillars of character.



### **Choir**

The Griffiths Middle School Choir continues to establish a reputation for excellence at the local, regional and national levels. Our young men and women have earned deserved accolades and awards based on hard work and commitment to excellence and love for music. From classical to gospel to jazz to pop, there is something for everyone. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned veteran, there is a place for you in choir.

# Athletics







Participating in athletics not only promotes physical activity and a healthy lifestyle, it also allows students a chance to develop self-discipline and interpersonal skills such as teamwork and communication.

Griffiths Middle School offers the following:

- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Football
- Track and Field
- Baseball
- Softball
- Basketball
- 20 Intramurals during lunch for everyone





The GATE program at Griffiths is designed with two goals in mind.

First, to provide access to the most rigorous courses with highly qualified teachers. Secondly, to provide educational experiences that expose students to local university programs and varied resources in Southern California.

GATE students are supported in both their unique educational and social-emotion needs.

*GATE*





**WHERE EVERYBODY BELONGS** - WEB is a selected team of 8th grade students who mentor all incoming 6th graders in order to help them feel welcomed and confident as they begin their new journey in middle school.

WEB welcomes all 6th graders to our summer orientation where students can meet other classmates, build new friendships and start to get familiar with the campus. WEB has monthly activities for WEB Leaders and 6th graders to build positive relationships and social skills, connect with one another and, above all, have fun!



#### **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY WEB INCLUDE:**

- Back to School Dance
- Lunch on the Lawn Game Day
- Learn to play fun board games & spoons
- Friendsgiving
- Group activities such as gingerbread house building, egg drop challenges and MORE!



*AVID*

AVID stands for **Advancement Via Individual Determination**. The program helps students develop learning, study and academic behavioral skills that are essential to success in rigorous coursework. AVID acts as a catalyst for schools to develop a culture of college readiness for all students across the campus. Students in the AVID elective receive daily instruction and support to prepare them for college from a trained AVID elective teacher. Students in the AVID elective also receive access to college tutors, dynamic guest speakers, teambuilding activities and field trips to local colleges and universities.



# Femineers

**THE FEMINEER PROGRAM** was created by Cal Poly Pomona's College of Engineering in 2013 to inspire additional females to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in their education and career.

At Griffiths, this highly creative program provides 7th and 8th grade students with project-based learning, female engineering student mentors and opportunities to visit Cal Poly Pomona, while building a sustainable program and community for current and future STEM leaders.

By engaging with real-world applications and hands-on activities, Femineers acquire the technical knowledge and practical skills necessary to become confident and strong in their future careers.



# CJSF and Scholarship



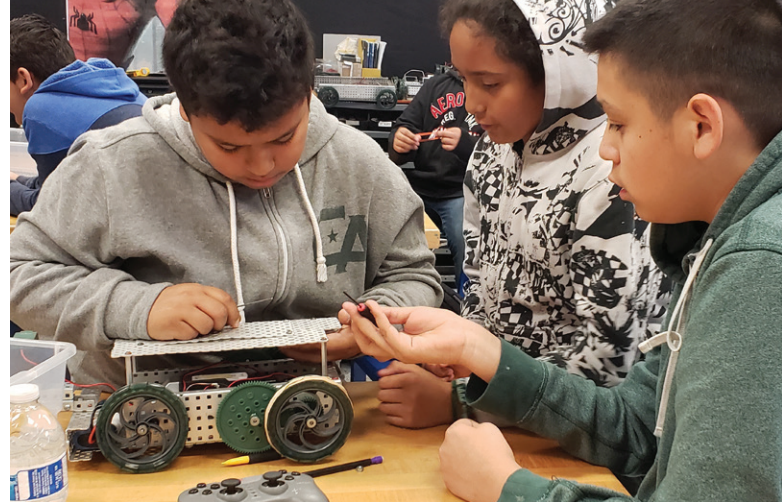
At Griffiths Middle School, we reward and recognize our students with excellent academic achievement and behavior with three levels of distinction: Renaissance, Honor Roll and Scholarship.

CJSF is an academic organization at Griffiths Middle School. Our chapter coordinates its guidelines with the California Scholastic Federation. It is an organization that rewards scholarship and service. The purpose of CJSF is to foster high standards of scholarship, service and citizenship on the part of California's public and private middle school students.



# Career Technical Education

The Career Technical Education (CTE) program bridges the gap between the world of work and education, through the development of career-specific, critical thinking, problem solving and soft-skills. The CTE Program at Griffiths provides students with the foundation and awareness of the structure and future trends within high-skill and high-wage industries.



## Why should you participate in CTE?

- To explore career interests and goals
- To learn employability and job skills
- To create a personal portfolio
- To obtain work experience and on-the-job training
- To prepare for advanced career training
- To receive high school credits
- To compete in industry competitions



# Film & Television



If you are interested in video creation, movie production or have a desire to be a star in front of the camera, then this class is perfect for YOU!

The Video Production class at Griffiths Middle School uses the latest technology and instructional strategies to learn aspects of editing, lighting, effects, green screen, audio and titling. Technology is combined with concepts of storyboarding, scripting and pre-production giving students an opportunity to **think** and **defend** their ideas. Students work individually and as a team to create videos for the morning broadcast that are shared on Good Morning Griffiths. The broadcast is seen daily throughout the whole school and is designed to provide relevant information and entertainment to the students and staff of Griffiths Middle School.

Video Production is part of the Film and Media Arts Pathways offered at Downey and Warren High School.



# Green Architecture



In Griffiths Middle School's Green Architecture program, students learn how to apply STEAM concepts to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring and sustainability.



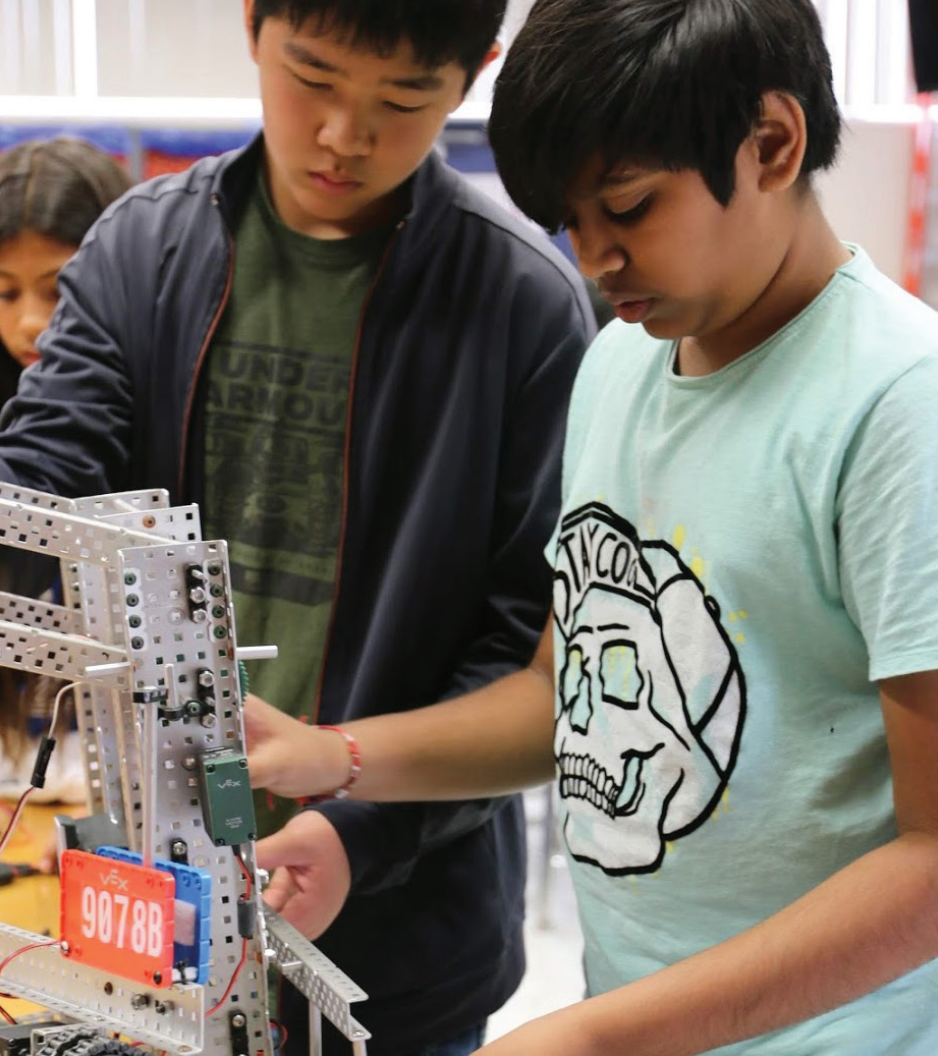
# Computer Science



Griffiths Middle School's Computer Science program teaches students the skills necessary to become globally competitive and successful.

In the GMS Computer Science program, students learn to create apps that can be used on their tablets and smartphones. As they create these apps, students use critical thinking skills to solve a problem through programming, while also developing their engineering skills.





# Robotics

During their time in Griffiths Middle School's Robotics Program, students will learn and understand the design process. This class helps students recognize the creativity and innovation that goes into creating technological products. Our students are encouraged to unleash their own creative concepts and actualize their ideas. This is done by exposing students to Computer Aided Drawing (CAD), 3D printing, and lots of hand-on applications.

# Culinary Arts



Culinary Arts is a semester long course that provides the opportunity to explore the basic fundamentals of cooking and baking. There will be special opportunities to explore and experience the hospitality industry, which includes restaurants, catering, and food and beverage services.

**COMING SOON!**











**Downey Unified**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

GRIFFITHS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
9633 Tweedy Lane  
Downey, CA 90240

DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
11627 Brookshire Ave.  
Downey, CA 90241

**Schedule a tour today!**

Call: **(562) 904-3580** or visit: **[www.DUSD.net/griffiths](http://www.DUSD.net/griffiths)**



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