




*SUSSMAN*  
**PIONEERS** *SP*





# Welcome to Sussman!

## WELCOME TO SUSSMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL - HOME OF THE PIONEERS -

We are excited about you joining the Sussman family! We have a one of a kind school culture and family atmosphere. Once you are part of team Sussman, you will not want to be anywhere else! Team Sussman goes above and beyond to make sure that Pioneers are 21st-century learners who thrive as they prepare for their high school journey to become college and career ready, globally competitive and citizens of good character. We cannot wait for you to meet our Sussman family.



# By the Numbers



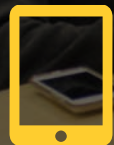
**4** Years in a row

of having the highest PTA participation



**5**

Classes lead to career pathways



**1:1**

Take-home iPad program



**27**

Competitive sport teams



**\$ 40** Million

schoolwide renovation completed



**10**

Student-based clubs

[web.dusd.net/attend](http://web.dusd.net/attend)



# Meet Our Team



**Principal**  
Dr. Connie Quintero  
cquintero@dusd.net



**Vice Principal**  
Jayson Quimby  
jaquimby@dusd.net



**VP/IB Coordinator**  
Dr. Anita Arora  
aarora@dusd.net



**Dean of Students**  
Tom Flores  
tflores@dusd.net



**School Psychologist**  
Dr. Veronica Martinez  
vmartinez@dusd.net

## Our Counselors



**Counselor**  
Debra Camacho  
dcamacho@dusd.net



**Counselor**  
Jim Gillespie  
jgillespie@dusd.net



**Counselor**  
Claudia Garcia  
cramirezgarcia@dusd.net



# 21st-Century Campus

## NEWLY REMODELED

Sussman Middle School recently went through large renovations using the \$40 million allocated from Measure O.

We are excited to share the transformation of our campus as our students experience 21st-century learning in our new:

- Administration Building
- Science Building
- Classrooms
- Gymnasium
- Locker Rooms





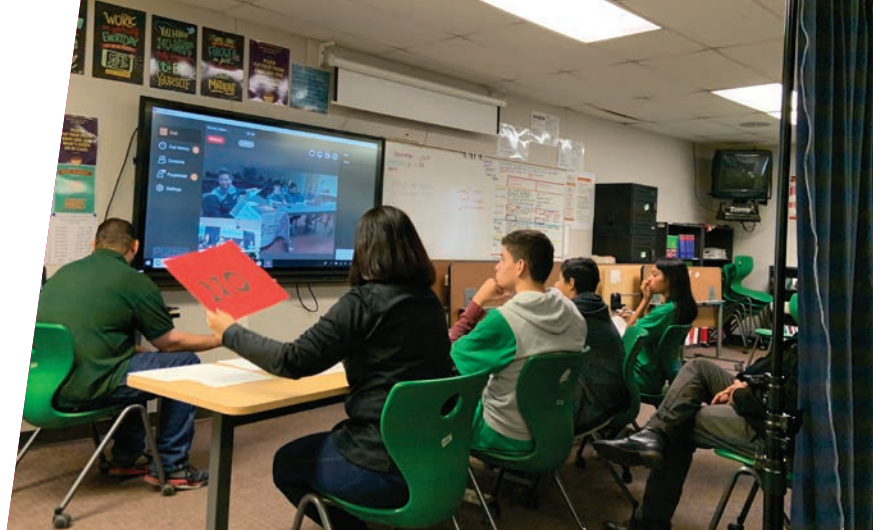
# Academic Resources

## LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

- Certified librarian
- Highest circulation of all middle schools in the district
- Extended hours

## RESOURCES

- Multiple digital classrooms
- 1 computer lab
- 2 science labs
- Lockers & multiple sets of laptop carts
- Available iPads, laptops, cameras, projectors, wireless internet, etc.
- **1:1 take-home iPad program for all 6th-8th graders**





# Creating Exemplary Citizens

The students of Sussman 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 fundraising for charitable causes throughout the year.

**HOLIDAY CANNED FOOD DRIVE**

**DONATIONS TO TLC**

**PEER TUTORING ON SITE**

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TUTORING**

**VOLUNTEERING TO SET UP BOOK FAIRS**

**ASB/WEB LEADERS SUPPORTING SCHOOL-WIDE  
EVENTS IN THE EVENINGS AND DURING SUMMER**



## DID YOU KNOW?

Downey Unified School District was recognized as a CHARACTER COUNTS! Exemplary School District.





## *Associated Student Body*

Sussman Middle School's ASB is unique in that it is not only a club but a complete leadership program where students learn work-related skills applicable in any industry. While there continue to be grade-level representatives and elected positions, the class is open to the entire student body and allows students to organize school functions, activities, rallies, fundraisers, dances and more!

Along with teaching students the preparation and leadership required to put on school-wide events, students also learn how to better build and exemplify a positive school culture.



# Something for Everyone

6th Grade Scholarship

7th Grade Scholarship

8th Grade Scholarship

Library Club

Drama Club

Impact Club

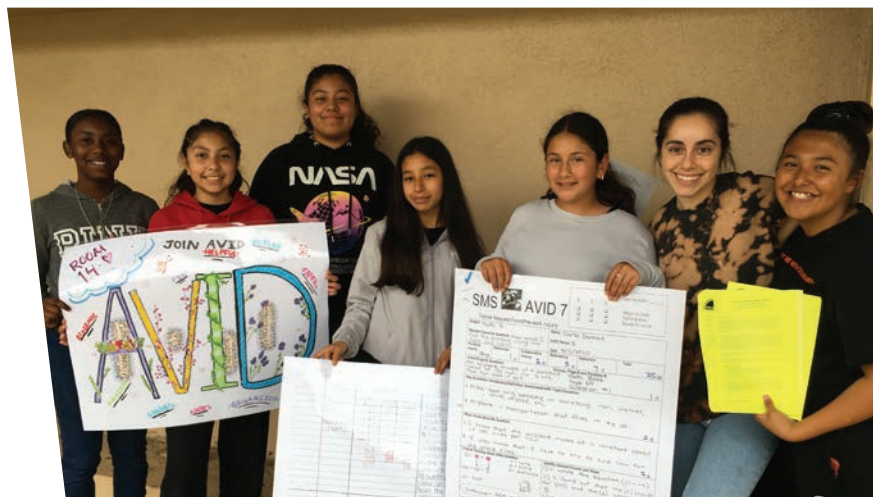
Art Club

Gaming Club

Beyblade Club

Chess Club

...and more!







# *Visual & Performing Arts*





### **Ceramic and Art/Design**

The Visual Arts department offers students a variety of art classes they can take throughout their years at Sussman. All are semester-length classes with Art 6 being every other day (opposite P.E.). We explore various artists throughout history and use a large selection of materials and processes. Students have the opportunity to grow as an artist by taking all three of the classes.



### **Performing Arts**

Our mission is to provide students with a thorough understanding and respect for all aspects of the theatrical profession. Throughout our program, the emphasis is placed on multiple facets of theatre: from acting onstage to assisting backstage; from technical and creative set, prop and costume design to economic theory. Upon leaving our program, students will have the essential skills necessary for their transition into the more advanced high school elective that will continue to prepare them for a professional career, university courses or community theatre as a performer, creator or viewer.





*Music Program*





Band students at Sussman Middle School have many wonderful opportunities to explore different types of music and performing experiences.

Students begin their journey in the beginning band class where students choose their instrument and learn to play with no experience necessary.

Advanced Band, Marching Band and Jazz Band classes are open to 7th and 8th-grade students. Students have the opportunity to perform at band reviews, parades, concerts, festivals, theme parks and often get to travel to places like San Diego and Reno.

The bands have won over 150 awards and honors over the past 20 years. The band family welcomes you to join and become part of this amazing group. Just register for beginning band, and we will take it from there.





# WEB

The WEB program helps Sussman Middle School be an inclusive place **Where Everybody Belongs!** WEB consists of a select group of 8th-grade students who mentor the 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 a summer orientation where the students can meet their classmates, build new friendships and familiarize themselves with our campus. WEB has monthly activities where 8th-grade WEB Leaders and 6th graders can connect with one another, build positive relationships and social skills, track their academic progress and, above all, have fun!

WEB events and activities include:

- SMS 6th-Grade Orientation Day
- Academic Goal Setting sessions
- Scholarship information sessions
- Friendsgiving
- Friendship Week Meet-Up and Lawn Games





# *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.

Sussman Middle School offers the following:

- Football
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Baseball
- Softball
- Track
- Intramural sports: Boys Football, Soccer (co-ed), Fitness (co-ed), Archery (co-ed), Boys Basketball, Rock Climbing (co-ed), Ultimate Frisbee (co-ed) and Kickball (co-ed)







*Academic Opportunities*



# AVID

**ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION** (AVID) is a 7th through 12th-grade program that prepares students for admission to a four-year college or university. Students take the AVID elective course in 7th and 8th grade that provides them with the skills needed to be successful in advancing academically with the ultimate goal of attending college.

For more than 30 years, AVID has been instrumental in preparing students for success in higher education. Students are taught study skills, note-taking, time management, writing and research skills while being immersed in a college-going culture. The class also includes twice-a-week tutoring sessions that are led by college students and provide support for success with the academically rigorous curriculum. Additionally, the AVID class provides access to information about colleges and universities through field trips, guest speakers, college tutors, scholarship opportunities and college admission requirement information.







The GATE program at Sussman Middle School is designed with two goals in mind. The first goal is to provide students with access to the most rigorous coursework that allows them to apply their learning utilizing an inquiry based model. The second goal is to provide students with experiences and opportunities that develop their talents and capabilities educationally, socially and culturally.

Our GATE students receive many opportunities, including visiting local universities and museums, exposure to work place educational application (Google, Disney's Imagineering, etc) and other extracurricular activities.

At Sussman, we aim to have our GATE Students thrive to become strong, well-rounded students who are supported in their educational, extra-curricular and social emotional needs as they prepare to become college and career ready, globally competitive and citizens of strong character.

# *GATE / Honors*



A young man with short dark hair and glasses is sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop. He is wearing a blue t-shirt. In front of him is a worksheet with text and a diagram. The laptop screen shows a programming interface with colorful blocks. A dark green banner with white text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

# Math with Computing

## PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

**MATH WITH COMPUTING** is part of the Engineering Pathways (i.e. Aerospace Engineering and Computer Integrated Manufacturing) that are offered in our high schools. This class offers mathematical applications through coding and robotics using a modified version of the most commonly used programming language C (a user-friendly C/C++ interpreter Ch). In this course, students will regularly use technology, learn how to write computer programs, program robots and develop problem solving skills. This program develops 21st century skills of coding and working with technology. It also prepares students to be successful in high school and beyond.





# Femineers

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

At Sussman Middle School, the program provides 7th and 8th-grade students with project-based learning, female engineering student mentors and opportunities to visit Cal Poly Pomona. The SMS Femineer program builds a social community and academic pathway for current and future STEM leaders.

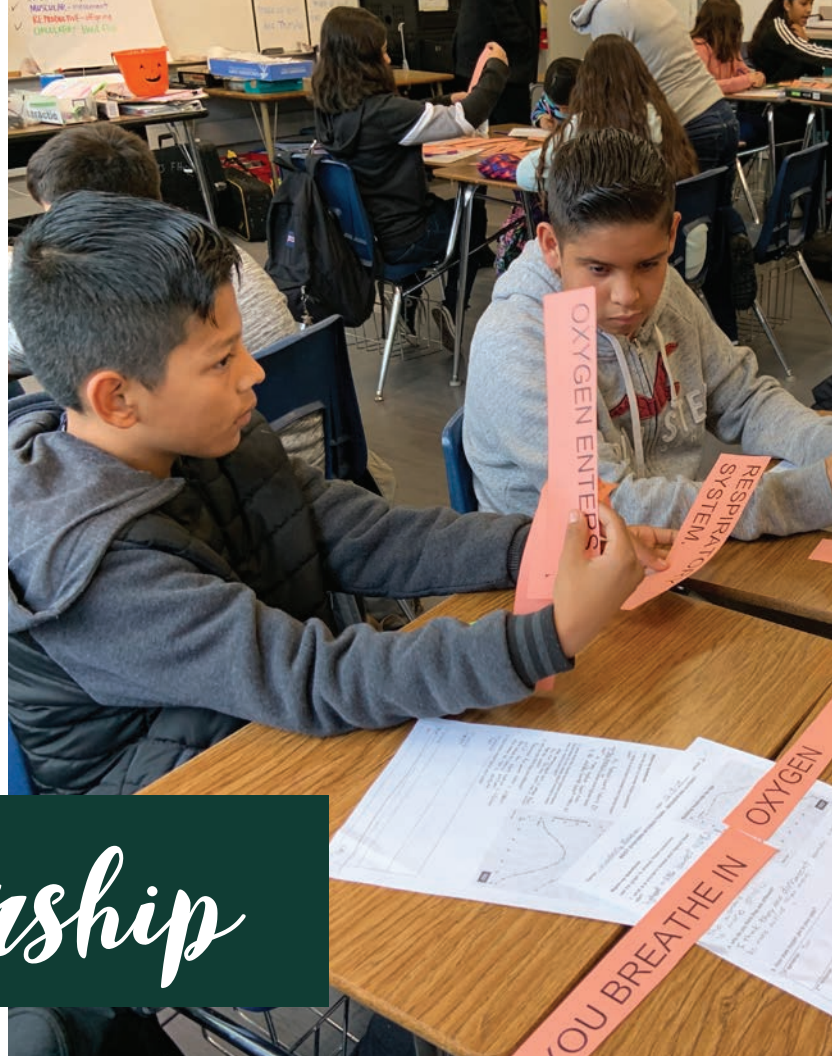
Our students participate in two modules: Creative Robotics and Wearable Technology, both of which engage participants through highly creative, hands-on activities. By engaging with real-world applications, our Femineers acquire the technical knowledge and practical skills necessary to become confident and self-assured in both themselves and their abilities.



At Sussman Middle School we recognize our students with excellent academic achievement and behavior. Membership in the Scholarship Club each semester is based on semester grades and includes standards for both GPA and behavior. Each spring, Sussman Middle School honors these distinguished students at our annual Honors Night. Sussman's 4.0 students are also honored with the President's Award for Academic Excellence.

CJSF (California Junior Scholarship Federation) is a state-wide academic organization at Sussman Middle School. Students who apply for CJSF membership during all three eligible semesters qualify to enter CSF immediately in high school. 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.

# CJSF/Scholarship





# International Baccalaureate®

## **Sussman is an IB Candidate School\* for the Middle Years Programme.**

"This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education that Sussman believes is important for our students."

*\*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.*

## **What is an IB Education?**

IB students take responsibility for their own learning. Our programme helps IB students:

- ask challenging questions
- think critically
- learn across disciplines
- develop research skills proven to help them in higher education



## How does the IB MYP Help Develop Students?

Parents who want the best possible education for their children choose the MYP because it includes:

- rigorous learning objectives
- a student-centred approach to teaching
- international perspectives
- concern for the whole child
- sustained teaching and learning in more than one language
- a focus on learning how to learn
- the development of flexible thinking that prepares students to evaluate information critically and apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar situations

The MYP teaches tools for lifelong learning and fosters responsible attitudes that help students discover how to use what they learn to take principled action. The MYP's focus on independent learning makes it the ideal preparation for the IB Diploma Programme (DP) and the IB Career-related Programme (CP).



## What does an IB student look like?

An IB student strives to be...

- inquirers
- knowledgeable
- thinkers
- communicators
- principled
- open-minded
- caring
- risk-takers
- balanced
- reflective

**Interested? Learn more:**

**[web.dusd.net/sussman/ib](http://web.dusd.net/sussman/ib)**



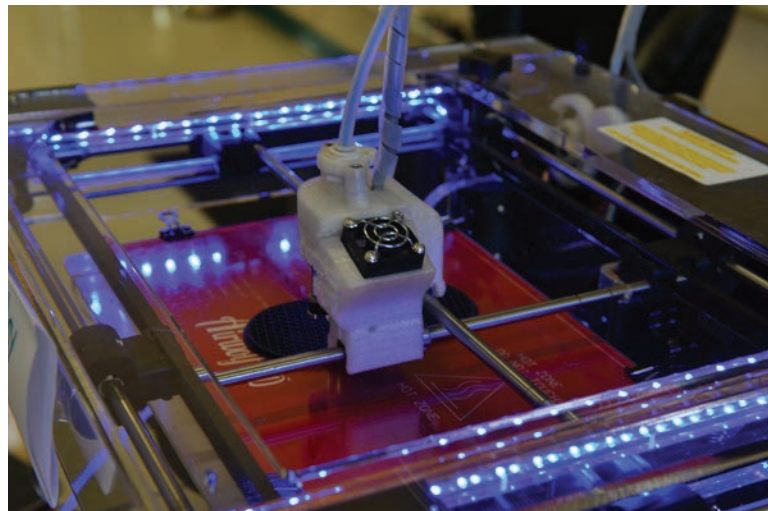
# Career Technical Education

Career Technical Education (CTE) provides students with the opportunity to acquire real-life skills to prepare them for successful, continuing education or entry-level career positions. Each CTE course offers relevant project-based activities modeled by professionals from the field. Most CTE classes provide industry-based **certification** and college **articulation**. CTE is the only way students can also earn entry into the National Technical Honor Society.



## 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 compete in industry competitions





# Broadcast & Journalism

Do you have what it takes to be part of the Sussman TV Broadcast team? We're looking for self-motivated, hard-working, creative, confident, outgoing, independent and responsible students to join our class! Students in this class will prepare and produce a live television show, "Good Morning, Pioneers," that is broadcast to our entire school every morning.

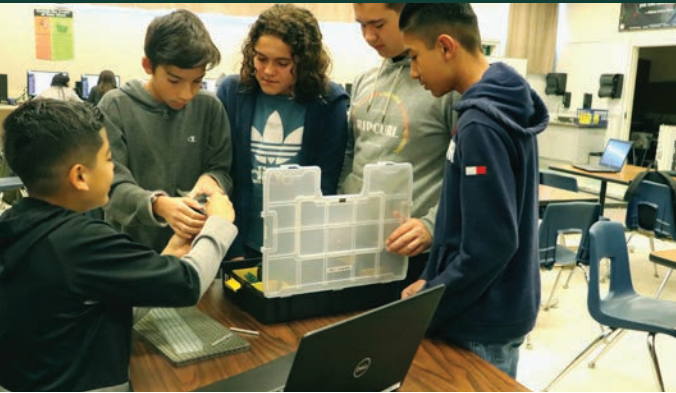
Broadcast students may work in front of the camera as an "On-Air TV Anchor," behind the scenes in the "Control Room" or behind the scenes creating content for the show. Students will learn and practice valuable skills that will help them succeed in their future, including Inquiry and Discovery learning strategies, the Five C's of Learning (Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Citizenship) and 21st-century technology skills.

Do you have what it takes to be on the Sussman TV broadcast team?





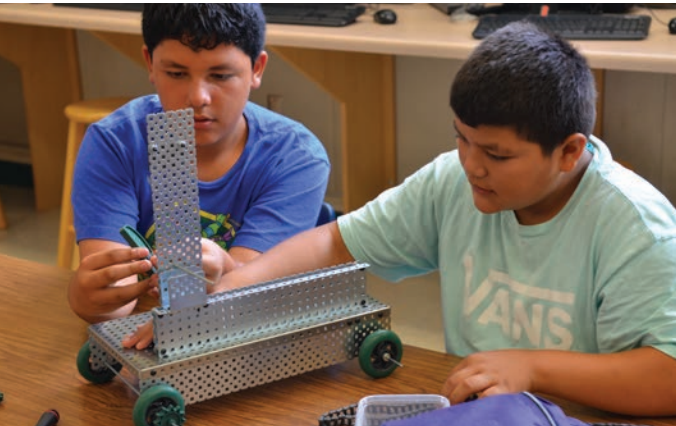
# Project Lead the Way



## *Automation and Robotics:*

Students work in groups to learn about how automation and robotics impact society. They research mechanical systems, energy transfer and machine automation, and will learn to code so that their robots and projects are capable of autonomous motion. Students use VEX Robotics® parts to design, build and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toys and robotic arms.

You can also join a robotics team and participate in VEX Robotics Competitions!





## **VERTICAL ARTICULATION: Smoothing the high school & college transition**

Sussman Middle School's mission is to prepare our students to be college and career ready when graduating high school. To achieve this long-term goal, Sussman Middle School works with Downey High School and Cal State Long Beach to facilitate project demonstrations and networking to ready our students for the next steps on their academic journeys.

Vertical articulation is best seen with our Engineering program. The program is aligned with Downey High School's to allow for an efficient transition for middle schoolers into high school where concepts learned in our middle school classrooms are connected and applied in their high school classrooms. During the year, Downey High School's Robotics team and students from Cal State Long Beach visit our Engineering students to present their robot designs, provide mentoring and give advice on our students' own projects.







## *Design and Modeling*

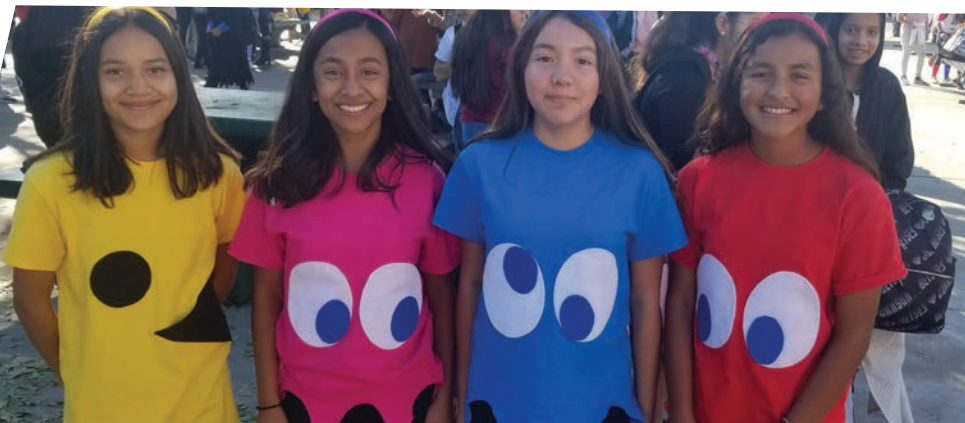
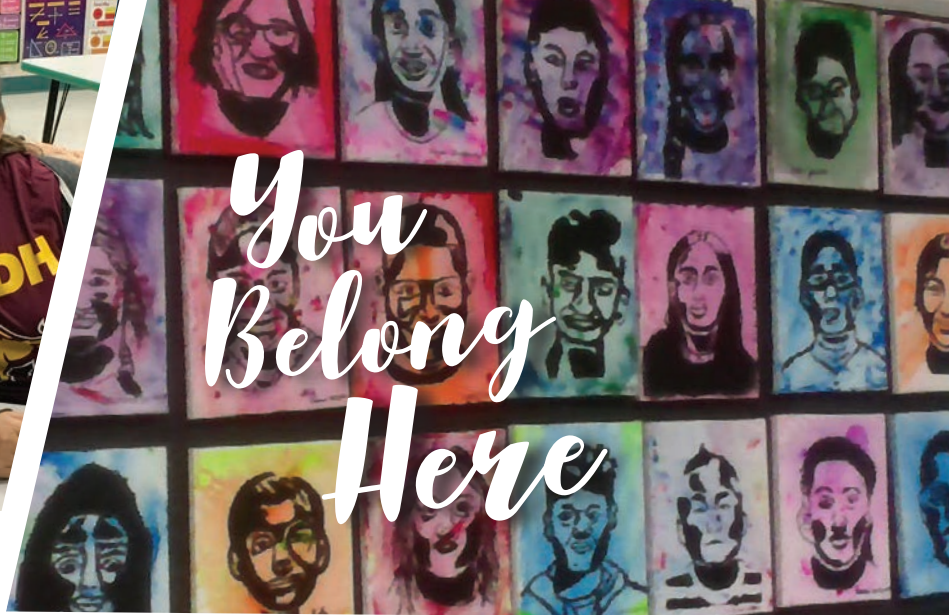
Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to research topics, design concepts and sketch their ideas on paper in multiple views. Then, using the PLTW website and various industry standard software, students create their designs on computers using 3D design software before actually making them in hands-on activities.



## *Flight and Space*

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. During this unit, students delve into the history of flight and space, discover the science behind aeronautics, and explore traveling and living in space. Students are then challenged to use their knowledge to design, build and test a glider.









**Downey Unified**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SUSSMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
12500 Birchdale Ave.  
Downey, CA 90242

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

**Schedule a tour today!**

Call: **(562) 904-3572** or visit: **[web.DUSD.net/sussman](http://web.DUSD.net/sussman)**



@SUSSMANPIONEERS



@SUSSMANPIONEERS