

MOUNT GLEASON MIDDLE SCHOOL CASE STUDY 2021-2022

Background: Mount Gleason Middle School is part of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) located in Sunland, California, a suburb north of Los Angeles. Built in 1959, the school currently has an enrollment of 753 students in grades 6, 7, and 8. The students are nearly equally distributed in the grades with each grade representing approximately a third of the enrollment.

The school offers two magnet programs, Gifted/High Ability magnet with 156 students and the STEAM magnet with 217 students. Of the 139 special education students, 91 are in the Resource Specialist program and 48 are in a Special Day program. The remaining students are in a general education program and are considered “Resident” students. Students have a wide variety of elective classes to choose from in the areas of art and technology. There are numerous clubs and curricular partnerships available to support students.

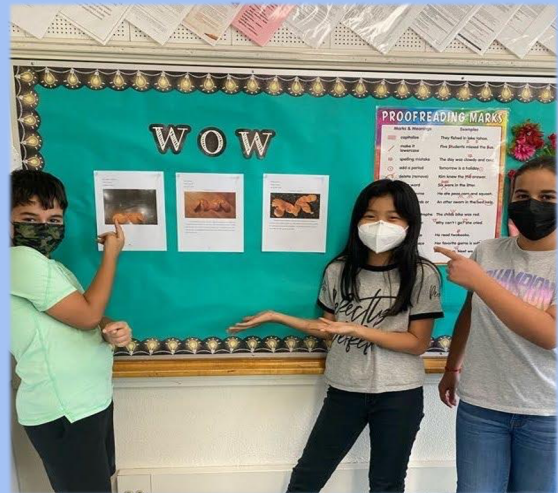
Vision: Mount Gleason Middle School is an educational community focused on guiding adolescents toward academic success through innovative thinking, creative problem solving, and working cooperatively in order to become responsible citizens, productive community members, and lifelong learners.

Mission: Mount Gleason Middle School is committed to providing each student with a rigorous, standards-based instructional program in a safe learning environment. We value all stakeholders’ voices as we support academic and social-emotional growth by teaching essential content knowledge and skills with real-world applications. Mount Gleason models respect and responsibility as our strategies necessary to nurture students’ successful transition from elementary to high school and beyond as college and career-ready young adults.

Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs):

Mount Gleason Middle School Mustangs will become...

1. Compassionate Human Beings who:
 - Exhibit empathy toward others.
 - Embrace diversity.
2. Respectful Communicators who:
 - Use technology and vocabulary appropriately.
 - Listen, speak, and write effectively.
3. Innovative Thinkers who:
 - Apply critical thinking skills to problem solve.
 - Collaborate in a reflective manner to produce successful outcomes.
4. Purposeful Students who:
 - Adhere to district, school, and classroom policies.
 - Display integrity and accept responsibility.
5. Self-Directed Lifelong Learners who:
 - Meet curricular standards in all subject areas.
 - Actively pursue individual goals and interests.
 - Explore pathways to be college and career-ready



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Analysis:

Our work blossomed in the following ways during the 2021-22 school year:

1. Homeroom Challenges aligned with the 8 Conditions
 - a. October - [Belonging](#)
 - b. November - Fun & Excitement
 - c. December - Heroes
 - d. January - Sense of Accomplishment
 - e. February - Curiosity & Creativity
 - f. March - Spirit of Adventure
 - g. April - Leadership & Responsibility
 - h. May - Confidence to Take Action
2. [Western Association of Schools & Colleges \(WASC\) Accredited](#)
2. Galloping Gatherings - Student Leaders mentoring 6th graders in the ways of Student Voice
3. [Staff Professional Development](#) focused on Student Voice ([Nearpod Presentation](#))
4. [New Teacher Mentoring Program](#)
5. *Student Voice Targeted Lessons* in the Middle School ([My Voice My Future student video series](#))
3. School Voice Survey (Fall and Spring)



Purpose:

Our specific goals in the 2021-2022 school year were to continue our Student Voice and Aspirations work school-wide, build new and returning staff capacity, and focus on fostering a sense of belonging school-wide as students transitioned back from distance learning as a result of the COVID pandemic.



STUDENT VOICES

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Interviews/Reflections (Teachers):

"Student voice helps the teachers and staff to reflect on what students need and improve on those things. The student voice survey is a reflection of the progress we have made as a school but most importantly the improvements we need to make."

- Mrs. Vazquez

"It's vital to hear the voices of our students from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Students need to make their own choices and take responsibility for their learning. This will empower students to become successful independents and will help prepare them for the future, in education and their careers."

- Mrs. Lee

"Student voice gives us a unique perspective from the students themselves. It allows us to reflect upon our methods and the effectiveness of what we are doing at school. It provides us with information that gives us specific opportunities to grow."

- Mrs. Arguelles-Mendieta

"Student voice has really and truly changed the way I think about my students, my school, and myself. This process has empowered me to be my truest self and to encourage my students to be their truest selves as well. My favorite shift has been to ask students WHO they want to be, rather than WHAT they want to be. So powerful!"

- Mrs. Goldsmith

Interviews/Reflections (Students):

"I think the most important thing about a student's voice is that one person's voice can make a difference. For example, if one student says that something was a problem and everyone agrees with the student, if that student didn't say anything maybe the problem would not be fixed."

- Ariana B.

"As a student I know teachers like it when I use my student voice because when you participate in class, your teacher knows you're there. I feel like my student voice matters because if you're asking a question, your teacher responds to you. If you need help then your teacher would be able to help you."

- Valerie S.

"I think the most important thing about student voice is that people need to understand that not everybody has the same opinion about stuff. So when someone is trying to say something, I recommend you listen to what they have to say and try to understand it from their point of view."

- Sose S.

"Student voice is important because it is one of our first opportunities in life to share our opinions and form policy that affects our lives."

- Troy W.



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School Voice Survey:

Mount Gleason Middle School improved on 44 of the 50 survey statements in the Student Voice Survey between 2019 and 2021, reflecting a significant growth trajectory as a result of the intentional, hard work of the Aspirations Team. Not surprisingly, 2022 data resulted in a dip in student perceptions during this difficult transition year. Despite this challenging year, MGMS still saw growth on 18 of the 50 survey statements between the 2 survey administrations this school year, most notably the following:

-Students develop programs that improve the whole school. (6.6% improvement)

- I know the goals my school is working on this year. (6.5% improvement)
- I am a valued member of my school community. (4.6% improvement)
 - Teachers have fun at school. (4.1% improvement)
- I am excited to tell my friends when I am successful. (4.1% improvement)
 - At school I am encouraged to be creative. (3.8% improvement)
 - School is preparing me well for my future. (2.6% improvement)
 - I feel comfortable asking questions in class. (2.3% improvement)
 - Other students see me as a leader. (2.2% improvement)
 - I like challenging assignments. (2% improvement)
 - Teachers are willing to learn from students. (2% improvement)

Moving Forward:

As we head into the 2022-23 school year, Mt. Gleason will continue to make Student Voice the cornerstone of our school community; encouraging our students to take ownership of their actions and their school. We will continue to empower our students to use their voices for the good of the whole.

