

# ERNEST LAWRENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT VOICE CASE STUDY 2022

## BACKGROUND:

Ernest Lawrence Middle School serves 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Chatsworth and surrounding neighborhoods. Our school is comprised of a residential school, a Gifted/Highly Gifted Magnet, and a Pioneering Science Magnet. Our mission is to provide a safe, respectful, academically challenging and rigorous learning environment, in which students become resilient in the face of challenges, respect and accept diversity, and become intellectually, emotionally and socially responsible citizens. We embrace student voice, inclusive engagement, social emotional health, and culturally responsive practices. We are proud to rank among the top 20% of public schools in California for our diverse student body.

## ANALYSIS:

Academics: Students at LMS engage in challenging, rigorous, enriching, Standards-based activities such as Model United Nations, Hippocrates Circle, Rube Goldberg Machine Contest, Band and Orchestra, Korean language and culture, Yearbook, Stage Crew, and Leadership.

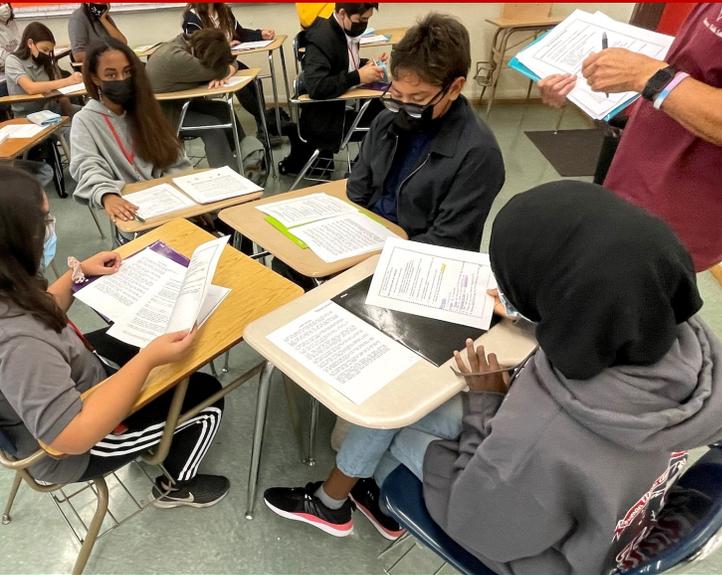
Social Emotional Health: Our Conflict Resolution Program known as Heart Group is designed to teach students how to manage conflicts more constructively by learning empathy- based peer mediation procedures.

Student Voice: Through our collaboration with the Quaglia Institute for School Voice and Aspirations, LMS throws an annual World Café where students share knowledge, generate ideas, and use their voice to enact changes that will best serve their academic and social-emotional health.

Professional Development: LMS Staff participates in weekly professional development opportunities that are anchored in peer collaboration across disciplines. Our aim is to apply the co-construction of knowledge in the context of these shared enterprises in a unified curriculum.

Awards and Recognition: Lawrence is proud to be a Magnet Schools of America School of Excellence. Our Gifted Magnet was awarded School of Distinction by Magnet Schools of America. Lawrence was awarded a WASC Accreditation for our high-quality learning model and our commitment to continual self-improvement.

# Getting to the Heart of Conflict



## Heart Group

LMS's peer mediation group known as Heart Group gives students the opportunity to serve as neutral mediators to help parties understand the root causes of their disputes and agree on a plan for resolving the conflict.



Conflict can be resolved no matter how big or small it is.

-Christopher Vo  
Heart Group Mediator, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



**TIME CAPSULE:** Looking ahead, students will be putting together a time capsule showcasing what it means to be a Lawrence Lion in any given year. A student-centered project, the capsule will be filled with items selected by members of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will then determine the amount of time that must pass before the capsule is unearthed. We would like to keep this Lawrence tradition going throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century!



## Every student Every voice



### LMS World Cafe

LMS is committed to holding space for every single student's voice. At our annual World Café, we bring together a rich and diverse group of students to share their thoughts and feelings about every aspect of student life. Once responses are collected, members of the Quaglia Team share the findings with the rest of the faculty and staff and together, we begin a dialogue that addresses our students' needs. Our World Café is the essential step towards creating a true collaborative learning conversation on our campus.

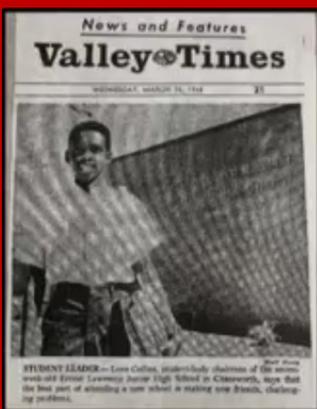




# Lawrence Legacy Project

## Student Voice Evolving: Our Journey

The value of student voice can only be recognized when students know that they are being listened to.



We invited our very first student body president, Love Collins III to have a conversation with our current student body president, Samantha Kaefer about the ways in which student voice has evolved on the Lawrence campus over the past 54 years.

Love Collins III 1968



Love Collins III



Samantha Kaefer



Click on the link to see the entire interview:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oIyBWaR1NKbOcevb\\_3CgU8O6PAIEOA7W/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oIyBWaR1NKbOcevb_3CgU8O6PAIEOA7W/view?usp=sharing)

**Lawrence Middle School**  
*Student Voice Evolving: Our Journey*  
 A Conversation with  
 Love Collins III  
 First Student Body President, 1968



Samantha Kaefer  
 Interviewer  
 Current Student Body President, 2021-2022

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One of the most powerful things we offer students at Lawrence is our PRIDE Groups. Each incoming 6th grade student is placed in a small group that is facilitated by 7th and 8th grade mentors. The mentors meet with their groups once a week and discuss both practical and social issues that will help the students be successful in middle school.



## Celebrating Accomplishments



At Lawrence, all accomplishments are recognized and celebrated. Along with awards for good attendance and

positive school spirit, we also have a Student of the Month program where the faculty selects students for both academic and non-academic recognition. At the end of the year, we present awards to culminating 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in school and community service.



# Looking Ahead



It is our plan to continue prioritizing student voice through ever-evolving and impactful activities. We will continue to offer our students the opportunity to participate in the Student Voice Survey in the Fall Semester so that all stakeholders can understand how the students are feeling about their place in our community.



One group we would like to focus on particularly is our 7th graders who have expressed a desire for activities that are unique to them.

As we move into the new school year, we are hoping to find a sponsor (or sponsors) for our 7th graders so that they can feel empowered as the voice of this pivotal transitional grade.



Another activity we would like to begin is the "Sit With Wisdom" lunch gathering where several teachers invite two or three students to have lunch with them. The goal is to give students who may not normally be asked how they feel about campus life an opportunity to share their views and become a part of the collaborative conversation.



We will continue to offer every student an opportunity to participate in the "I Know My Class" survey in each of their classes early in the Spring Semester.



## Staying

**connected**



Beginning in the fall of 2022, Lawrence will collaborate to create a "Quaglia" page on our school's website: [LMS Home](#). Creating this page will allow our Aspirations team to easily share its work with students, staff, the community, and all other stakeholders. The page will also house resources such as links to surveys and lesson plans for teachers.



Lawrence Middle School is committed to the endeavor of empowering every student voice on campus.

**WE ARE ALL LIONS**