



Joseph Kerr Middle School

ADDRESS: 8865 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624 PHONE: (916) 686-7728

PRINCIPAL: Dr. Joseph Petterle GRADE LEVELS: 7-8 SCHEDULE: Traditional

NOTE: Online viewers can see the [full-length version of this report](#). You can also call the school to request a printed copy.

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Joseph Kerr Middle School believes that every child can learn and seeks to provide a challenging curriculum for all students to achieve to their fullest potential. We offer students high academic standards, a safe campus, and a positive environment in which to learn. Kerr stresses the basics, yet provides a comprehensive education for each child.

After far exceeding its growth target for the last three years, Kerr last year maintained its academic excellence as measured by the school's Academic Performance Index (API). In addition to an outstanding staff, our success is also a product of strong parental involvement. Parents are encouraged to get involved in school activities.

TEACHERS

Our teachers' experience, the credentials they hold, and the number of students they teach are the factors we can measure and provide in this report.

KEY FACTOR	OUR SCHOOL	COUNTY AVG	STATE AVG
Number of teachers	65	33	31
Students per teacher	23	23	23
Average years in teaching	16	12	12
Teachers with one or two years of experience	3%	13%	15%
Elementary credentials	29%	47%	52%
Secondary credentials	88%	71%	63%
Trainee credentials	0%	2%	7%
Emergency permits	3%	6%	11%

SOURCE: 2002 CBEDS data, California Dept. of Education. County and state averages represent middle schools only.

STUDENTS

We provide information on the factors below because they may affect how well students perform in school. Most of the 115 students at this school whose native language is not English speak Spanish or Vietnamese at home.

KEY FACTOR	OUR SCHOOL	COUNTY AVG	STATE AVG
Total number of students	1,523	767	719
English learners	8%	16%	22%
Low-income students	22%	38%	47%
Students whose parents attended college	81%	66%	56%

SOURCE: 2002 CBEDS data, California Dept. of Education. County and state averages represent middle schools only.

AVERAGE CLASS SIZES

Classes at Joseph Kerr vary in size across core courses, from a low of 26 students to a high of 34. Our average class size schoolwide is 31 students. The average class size for middle schools in the state is 27 students.

CORE COURSE	OUR SCHOOL	COUNTY AVG	STATE AVG
English	26	25	26
Social studies/history	34	30	29
Math	31	28	28
Science	33	30	30

SOURCE: 2002 CBEDS data, California Dept. of Education. County and state averages represent middle schools only.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

California Standards Test, 2003

One test our students take each spring is based solely on what California students should be learning. This test is the California Standards Test. The table below shows how well our students scored in key subject areas.

Student Proficiency

BAR GRAPHS SHOW THESE PROFICIENCY GROUPS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
■ FAR BELOW BASIC ■ BELOW BASIC ■ BASIC ■ PROFICIENT ■ ADVANCED

SUBJECT	PERCENT PROFICIENT OR HIGHER	LOW SCORES	HIGH SCORES
English/Language Arts (Reading and Writing)			
Schoolwide average	49%		
Average middle school in California	34%		
Math			
Schoolwide average	46%		
Average middle school in California	32%		
Algebra I			
Schoolwide average	50%		
Average middle school in California	36%		
History/Social Science			
Schoolwide average	50%		
Average middle school in California	28%		

SOURCE: The scores for the California Standards Tests are from the spring 2003 test cycle. State average represents middle schools only.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

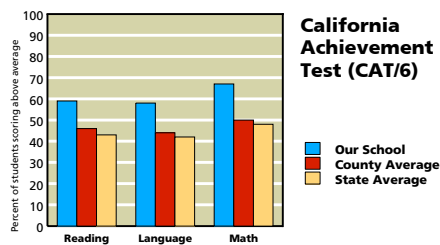
The Academic Performance Index (API) is California's way of rating schools. The index is based on student test scores and rates schools on a scale from 200 to 1000. Our school's API was 762. The API for the average middle school in California was 685. The state expects all schools to eventually obtain an API of at least 800.

Adequate Yearly Progress is a federal measure based on student participation rates, scores on standardized tests, and the school's API. If a school does not meet its goals in any one of these areas, it has not made AYP. Program Improvement schools have missed their AYP targets for two consecutive years.

CALIFORNIA API ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX		FEDERAL AYP ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS	
Met schoolwide growth target	No	Met AYP	No
Met growth target for prior school year	Yes	Met schoolwide participation rate	Yes
API score	762	Met schoolwide test score goals	Yes
Growth attained from prior year	-2	Met subgroup* participation rate	No
Met subgroup* growth targets	No	Met subgroup* test score goals	No
Governor's Performance Award	No	Met schoolwide API for AYP	Yes
Underperforming school	No	Program Improvement School	No

SOURCE: API growth score, spring 2003 test cycle. Rankings are released in February 2004.
 *Subgroups are ethnic or socioeconomic groups of students that must meet separate AYP and API goals.
 R/P - Results pending due to challenge by school
 N/A - Results not available

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



SOURCE: Spring 2003 test cycle. State average represents middle schools only.

The California Achievement Test (CAT/6) compares our students to other students in the nation in reading, language, and math. It replaces the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT-9). The scores in the graph above and the table below show the percentage of our students that scored above average on the CAT/6 compared to other students in the county and state.

SUBJECT	PERCENT ABOVE AVERAGE		
	OUR SCHOOL	COUNTY AVG	STATE AVG
Reading	59%	46%	43%
Language	58%	44%	42%
Math	67%	50%	48%

SOURCE: Spring 2003 test cycle. State average represents middle schools only.

RESOURCES

LIBRARY: The school library contains a research center including computers with Internet access. Kerr employs two half-time librarians and a full-time library assistant. Students visit the library often to check out books and conduct research during English, science, social science, and other classes. The library is open from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. to provide students with additional time to meet their academic needs.

COMPUTERS: Kerr has two fully-equipped computer labs. All seventh grade students receive 12 weeks of instruction through their science class to prepare them for the high school requirement for computer literacy. We have a Web site that is accessible to students and parents. Our vision is to use computer technology to enable dynamic interaction between staff, students, teachers, and parents.

RESOURCES	OUR SCHOOL	COUNTY AVG	STATE AVG
Students per computer	8	5	6
Internet-connected classrooms	59	56	30

SOURCE: CBEDS census of October 2002. County and state averages represent middle schools only.

BUILDINGS: Our school was built in 1965 and modernized in 1993 and 2000. Kerr houses 57 classrooms; a large multipurpose room with stage and kitchen; two computer labs; a library; music and arts rooms; a home economics room; a woodshop; a gymnasium; a track; and soccer, softball, baseball, and football fields.

SCHEDULE

Kerr follows a traditional schedule, with students attending for 180 days. The school day is six periods, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:41 p.m. Students may take a zero period class beginning at 8:30 a.m. The school office is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please visit our office to find out more about our before school and afterschool programs.

CLIMATE FOR LEARNING

DISCIPLINE: Suspensions and expulsions reflect both how strict our rules are, and how strictly we enforce them. We do not count in-school suspensions in the table below.

DISCIPLINE FACTOR	OUR SCHOOL	DISTRICT AVG
Suspensions per 100 students	30	11
Expulsions per 100 students	0	0

SOURCE: Information provided by district office staff. District averages represent middle schools only.

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

Some students are in specialized programs for some part of the day. The percent of students in each program follows.

PROGRAM	OUR SCHOOL	DISTRICT AVG
English learner	8%	7%
Gifted/Talented (GATE)	11%	0%

SOURCE: This data is reported by school district staff. District averages represent middle schools only.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We maintained a high API ranking of 762.
- African-American student performance increased by seven points.
- Hispanic student performance increased by 15 points.
- Low socio-economic student performance increased by 24 points.
- In English/language arts, 61 percent of seventh grade students and 45 percent of eighth grade students increased their performance level or maintained a performance level of proficient or advanced.
- In math, 46 percent of seventh grade students and 48 percent of eighth grade students increased their performance level or maintained a performance level of proficient or advanced.

FOCUS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- The school will continue to stress a standards-based curriculum and will seek to improve its statewide test scores. The school will continue to provide an academic environment and a challenging curriculum.
- We look forward to the implementation of the newly adopted Holt, Rinehart and Winston series in English and plan to have each teacher attend a 40-hour staff development through the Holt Institute.
- We are pleased to enter our second year of implementation for the new McDougal-Littell math series as well as the two new Prentice Hall math adoptions.



All data in this report was correct at the time of publication: February 2004. To view a full-length version of this report or to access the **technical data appendix** please visit the district's Web site at <http://www.egusd.k12.ca.us/> or contact the school or district directly using the information below.

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NOTES ON SOURCES: California Basic Education Data System (October 2002 census); Language Census (April 2003 census); CAT/6 and California Standards Tests (Spring 2003 test cycle); Academic Performance Index (January 2004 growth score release); California Safe School Assessment (school year 2001-2002). All data not available from the Dept. of Education was provided by the district office staff.



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