



# MORRILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Thomas Carroll

Assistant Principal: Timothy Alvernaz

## Culture of Achievement

The staff members at Morrill Middle School are committed to promoting high academic achievement for all students in a caring, nurturing, learning environment. The staff is highly qualified to meet and support the diverse needs of our students. Teachers collaborate in professional teams to review data and discuss grade-level and department needs. The Morrill Middle School site team consists of the following members: teachers, counselor, school Psychologist, social worker, Library Media Technician, paraeducators, office staff, and the administrative team. Our collective goal is to work together to provide a comprehensive school experience for all students that focus on their overall well-being and academic success.

Morrill teachers teach and implement the Common Core State Standards within the framework of the district approved adopted curricular materials. Our expectation is that with appropriate supports, students master the state content standards for each course, and demonstrate the required knowledge and skills to become proficient in each core area of instruction. Morrill teachers are committed to improving their own skills by using the most current research-based strategies about how students learn. Teachers are provided professional development opportunities at the school site, through the district and outside of our district to remain on the cutting edge of their profession. Support programs are offered to students during the day and after school to further improve their comprehension of key concepts. Morrill teachers make themselves available before and after school to provide extra student support and to meet with parents for conferences.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

Instructional practices revolve around 21st Century Skill-based learning and encompass critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication. Morrill students are taught to apply complex reasoning skills in all subject areas through group and individual projects with an emphasis on technology. District adopted materials are further enhanced by technology-based supplemental programs in Language Arts and Mathematics. The Science department has created Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) aligned units of study to maintain a rigorous and hands-on experience for our students. Morrill's electives program provides students with opportunities to participate in AVID, choir, instrumental music, leadership, academic support, health, life skills, technology and art. The Physical Education program introduces students to a wide selection of activities to emphasize overall health and cardiovascular fitness.

## Collaborative Learning

Morrill Middle School is dedicated to providing all students with access to rigorous, Common Core State Standard aligned curriculum that is adapted to meet the needs of all students. Morrill has a well-established co-teaching program, allowing students in Special Education to be placed in the general education setting with appropriate support. The co-teaching classes have two teachers and paraeducator support, allowing all students in the class to benefit from more individualized instruction. The co-teaching model allows all students to collaborate and communicate, building a positive culture of inclusivity and support. Teachers who are in co-taught classes are given time to plan, articulate, grade, and develop plans of action for supporting all students within their classes.