



Didion Middle Website



6490 HARMON DRIVE, SACRAMENTO, CA 95831

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL

At Didion Middle, academic achievement and social and emotional development are primary goals. We provide a safe, supportive, and nurturing community at a K-8 school located in the Pocket area. Smaller class sizes with the same teachers over the course of two years allow students, teachers, and families to establish strong relationships. In addition, students consistently excel on the state-standardized exams and are well-prepared for high school.

## LEARN MORE

### Visit In-Person

Tuesday, January 16 @ 11:20 a.m.

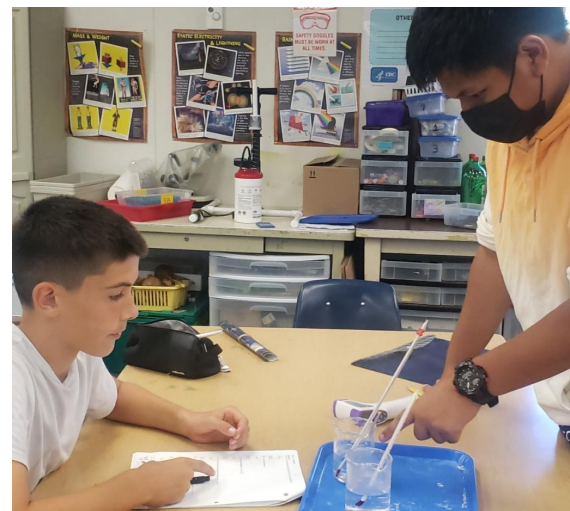
Thursday, January 18 @ 11:25 a.m.

Tuesday, January 23 @ 11:20 a.m.

Sign up for a tour in the office, call Ms. Gail at 916-395-4575, or email [gail-nakamura@scusd.edu](mailto:gail-nakamura@scusd.edu)

\*Each visitation is approximately one hour.

If you're currently in 6th grade at Didion, you will be automatically enrolled! All other students will need to apply through Open Enrollment February 5 - February 23 of 2023.



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 8th Grade Catalina Island Trip
- Washington D.C. Trip (offered every other year through World Strides for 7th and 8th graders)
- Student Council
- After School Athletic Teams
- Accelerated Mathematics
- Advisory
- Exploratory Wheel

"Didion students are ... a great addition to PACE ... a college prep honors program and they come to us strong in the areas of class participation, writing skills, time management and creativity"

**Todd Whalen, Director  
PACE, JFK HS**

"Didion students who come to HISP are ... socially and academically ready to take on the high school experience ... They are leaders and scholar-athletes and artists and performers"

**Ellen Wong, Director  
HISP, CK McClatchy HS**

## **TEACHER AND COURSE INFORMATION**

**Ms. Fassiotto, Accelerated Math 7/8 and 8/1.** BS in Mathematics, MA in Education from UC Davis with over 10 years of teaching experience from 7th grade math intervention to high school AP Calculus. During Didion's two year accelerated math program, students master 7th grade, 8th grade, and Integrated Math 1 standards using Big Ideas Course 2, Big Ideas Course 3, and Walch CCSS Math 1 textbooks. Students experience whole class instruction, collaborative work, and independent assignments. Students also learn and practice productive habits including note-taking, organization, and study methods that they can use as successful math students in the future.

**Contact.** Leigh-Ann-fassiotto@scusd.edu

**Mrs. McDaniels, Math 7 and 8.** MA in Education from University of Nevada, Reno with over 10 years of teaching experience in both Nevada and in Sacramento. Students will master 7th grade and 8th grade standards using Big Ideas Course 2 and Big Ideas Course 3 textbooks. Students also learn and practice productive habits such as note-taking, organization, and study methods for success in future courses. Mrs. McDaniels also teaches Elementary PE classes at Didion.

**Contact.** karen-mcdaniels@scusd.edu

**Mrs. Fong, Social Studies.** Mrs. Fong graduated with high honors from the California State University of Sacramento with a degree in Liberal Studies and a minor in History. She has over 8 years of teaching experience with SCUSD. Throughout the year, students will learn about social science through active problem-based learning that includes a strong focus on multiple learning intelligences and collaborative group work.

**Publications with Art Media.** Publications is an introductory course in Journalism along with Art Media. Students will use their writing and composing skills to create published pieces in a variety of media.

**Contact.** pamela-fong@scusd.edu

**Mrs. Tateishi, Language Arts.** BA in English, MA in Education from UC Davis with over 20 years experience teaching grades 7-12. Students will use curriculum from the My Perspectives textbook, in addition to reading supplemental novels. An important component of the class is the Independent Reading Project where students read and analyze novels of their choice throughout the year.

**Visual and Performing Arts.** Students participate in a variety of theater and team-building activities in order to increase their comfort performing in front of an audience.

**Speech and Debate.** Students work in teams of three to research and debate.

**Contact.** pamela-tateishi@scusd.edu

**Mr. Carras, Physical Education.** Kinesiology Degree, UNC Wilmington, and credentials from Sac State with over 20 years teaching experience in middle school. Students participate in sports and activities that allow for development and understanding of their physical abilities. Students become aware of the social benefits of activity through participation: individual and dual activities in 7th grade and team sports in 8th grade.

**Leadership.** Students use various PE activities to provide mentorship for elementary groups.

**Contact.** mike-carras@scusd.edu

**Ms. Almanza, Science.** Multiple Subject and Single-Subject Credential in Science with over 10 years of teaching experience. Students investigate scientific topics through productive dialogue, inquiry, purposeful reading and meaningful writing. Both 7th and 8th grades are integrated subjects where students investigate real-world phenomena.

**Humanities.** Introduction to Spanish language and Latin American culture.

**Contact.** rocio-almanza@scusd.edu

## **TRIPS**

**Washington, DC Trip.** Offered every other year through World Strides. Students visit Jamestown, Williamsburg, Monticello, Mount Vernon, National Capitol, Holocaust Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian, Gettysburg, and more.

**Catalina Field Trip.** 8th graders take part in a five day trip to Howlands Landing, Catalina Island. The Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy Program includes land and sea activities - day and night snorkeling, kayaking, ecology hikes, and other activities.