

Grimmway Schools Model

We push our scholars to maximize their academic potential by challenging them with high expectations and a rigorous approach to learning with a special emphasis on literacy, health and wellness.

Our model integrates Humanities and STEM curriculums, personalized learning through Learning Lab, a daily literacy block, Structured English Immersion, and the Edible Schoolyard - an experiential learning approach - in which students explore how healthy food is grown in the garden and prepared in the kitchen.

Our goal is that not only are students prepared for the academic rigors of secondary and higher education, but also develop a deep understanding of the impact that proper nutrition has on their academic performance as well as their lifelong health and well-being.

Inquiry Based, Rigorous Instruction	Our goal is for scholars to learn new concepts or skills through a process of investigation, reflection, and collaboration.
Data Driven	Our goal is for educators at all levels of leadership to use data to drive their decision making, from the CMO level to decision-making in the classroom.
Connection to environmental stewardship, health, nutrition, and wellness	Our goal is for the Edible Schoolyard (ESY) and Cafe to stand as tangible manifestations of our dedication to student health, wellness, and stewardship of the environment.
Student-Centered and Personalized Learning	Our goal is for our scholars to progress at a pace that allows scholars to master new concepts and skills, to access a variety of resources, to receive timely feedback on their progress, and to demonstrate their knowledge in multiple ways.
Continuous Professional Growth of Teachers	No input plays as central a role in a student’s success as an effective teacher. Our goal is to invest heavily in meaningful professional growth opportunities for our teachers and instructional staff.

Edible School Yard

The Grimmway Schools Edible Schoolyard is comprised of over a half-acre organic garden and kitchen classroom, at the center of the campus. The goal of the program is that every child at Grimmway Schools has the opportunity to share in the cultivating, planting, harvesting, cooking, and eating of delicious, healthy food. Through this process, it is our hope to encourage children in their discovery and development of a healthy relationship with the food they eat. Academic concepts are brought to life and students are able to make connections between food, the environment and wellness. We encourage students to explore and awaken their senses to the world around them and to enjoy and appreciate food through seed to table education.

Students are engaged in hands-on learning garden and kitchen classes throughout the school year, enabling them to see and taste each season. Typical classes are 70-minutes long, one grade, and one week at a time. In the garden, students cultivate, irrigate, plant, tend to and harvest crops. The fruits of their hard work are then taken into the kitchen classroom where they prepare, create, cook and taste a delicious recipe. Arithmetic, science, history, social science and language arts are seen and connected to throughout each class. Students learn the importance of recycling and compost in the Edible Schoolyard.

As students' plant and eat their way through each season, students will learn the values of: environmental stewardship, seasonality, personal expression, active learning, collaboration and cooperation, nourishment of self, family and community and ultimately strengthen their own awareness of the world around them.

Music Program

Students will have music one to two times a week. In music, students will explore a wide variety of musical genres and styles as they learn the basics of reading and writing in standard musical notation. A classroom set of instruments will be available for students of all grade levels including ukuleles, xylophones, and an assortment of hand percussion. In addition to our instrumental program, music class will cover singing techniques, kinesthetic movement, and the importance of responsible musicianship. Students will enjoy learning to love and appreciate music through interactive media, games, group projects, and first-hand experience.

Art Program

Students will attend art class one to two times a week. Students will learn about types of art, artists, and cultural awareness. Students will also be exposed to art technique in watercolor, charcoal, pencil and paint. Other areas of art will be introduced based on grade level and student readiness.

Physical Education

Grimmway Schools Physical Education goal is to increase students' quality of life by teaching them proper exercise and nutrition and to incorporate cross-curricular activities in the subjects of math and science in order to increase their learning effectiveness. The P.E. program will serve as a complement to the Edible School Yard and Grimmway Café's Wellness program that is a school-wide focus. Students will rotate to P.E. one to two times a week.

Student Achievement

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress ("CAASPP")

Grimmway Schools shall annually administer required state testing to the applicable grades (e.g., the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress.)

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a parent's or guardian's written request to School officials to excuse his or her child from any or all parts of the state assessments shall be granted.

Academic Parent Teacher Team Meetings

The model promotes student engagement, increases confidence and attendance, as well as improves parent-teacher communication and parent self-efficacy for supporting student learning at home. APTT has two main components. The first is classroom team meetings each year. The "classroom team" consists of the classroom teacher and all the parents in the class. In these group meetings, the teacher reviews and explains class-level academic data, in addition to providing parents with individual data about their own child's performance and helping parents set 60-day SMART (Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic, and Time-Bound) academic goals for their children. Teachers model and provide materials for activities that parents can do with their children at home, giving parents time to practice these activities with each other in a small group setting. In addition, parents can share tips among themselves. Teachers lead APTT nights with their advisory/homeroom classes. At Grimmway Schools, APTT nights are scheduled throughout the school year and end the school year with one on one conferences to recap the student's goals.

School Accountability Dashboard

California public schools annually provide information about themselves to the community allowing the public to evaluate and compare schools for student achievement, environment, resources and demographics. A copy of the Grimmway Academy Arvin/Shafter dashboard will be available on our website and available in hard copy in the school office, upon request.