



RUSD's Jehue Middle School Awarded California and National *Schools to Watch*

March 8, 2024 - Rialto, CA - A remarkable achievement as Rialto Unified School District's William G. Jehue Middle School (JMS) has been selected as one of 16 middle schools to earn the esteemed 2024 California and National *Schools to Watch* recognition.

According to Schools to Watch, 3% of the State's 7,200 middle schools earn the recognition each year. This award is a testament to JMS's unwavering commitment to educational excellence, underscored by its status as a Platinum-Level PBIS, AVID School of Distinction, and Gold Level Green School recognitions, setting a benchmark within the RUSD.

On March 8, 2024, representatives from Jehue's staff celebrated this prestigious recognition in Monterey, California, at the California League of Educators Annual Conference. Additionally, school officials will attend a national ceremony in Washington, D.C., from June 22-24, 2024, to be honored by the National Forum Schools to Watch, the overseeing body of the national program. The RUSD Board of Education will also honor Jehue Middle School at a future Board of Education Meeting. To bookend this achievement, at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Jehue Middle School's Back to School Night, the school will commemorate its 25th Anniversary and celebrate the State and National Schools to Watch honors.

The 2024 California Schools to Watch program celebrated JMS among its new inductees, recognizing the school's comprehensive approach to nurturing the whole child through academic rigor, social equity, responsiveness to the developmental needs of young adolescents, and a culture of innovation. The addition of new schools like JMS to the Schools to Watch roster emphasizes the exemplary commitment and dedication to students.

"Jehue Middle School's recognition as a California and National School to Watch is a proud moment for our community," stated **Dr. Cuahtémoc Avila**, RUSD Superintendent. "I am proud of the exceptional work of our classroom teachers, support of classified employees, families, and administrative team. The school's achievements reflect its dedication to creating an environment where students are encouraged to excel academically and grow personally. "

The rigorous selection process for the Schools to Watch program involves a comprehensive evaluation by educators and administrators, focusing on the school's strategies and systems that foster a supportive and dynamic learning environment.

"At Jehue Middle School, we're honored as a Schools to Watch recipient, celebrating student achievement, fostering a positive work culture through teamwork, and engaging parents and students in our school's growth," said **Carolyn Eide**, Jehue Middle School Principal. "This recognition will help focus our future endeavors on student achievement."

"In the 25 years I have been at Jehue, nothing brings me greater satisfaction than visiting with our former Jaguars who return to share their accomplishments and express their gratitude for what our Jehue teachers and staff did to inspire them," said **Ed Ott**, Jehue Middle School Counselor. "To me, that's what it's all about! The success of our programs stems from our site leaders who have the agency to make decisions that benefit our learning community."

Jehue Middle School is the second middle school in the District to earn the Schools to Watch recognition. Last school year, RUSD's Ben F. Kolb Middle School also earned the honor and headed to Monterey for the State recognition and the Capital for the national recognition.

For more information about the Schools to Watch program, please visit the California League of Educators California Schools to Watch web pages at: <https://www.leagueofeducators.org/stw>.

