



Walter T. Helms Middle School SPARC 2017

Support Personnel Accountability Report Card

A continuous improvement document sponsored by the California Department of Education



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Principal: Jessica Petrilli **District:** West Contra Costa Unified School District

Grade Levels: 7-8 **Enrollment:** 1001

Principal's Message

I am proud to acknowledge the commitment to college and career readiness that has been demonstrated by the Walter T. Helms Middle School (HMS) community. Students' academic and career development, and health and wellness are the cornerstone of HMS as a full service community school. In alignment with our district local control accountability plan, HMS implements Renaissance Learning; an integrated assessment and leveled reading program. HMS, in coordination with community health and wellness partners, offers student-based mental health services. HMS provides opportunities for students to explore college and career and post secondary education options. These activities include; college or career based study trips, college and career counseling, enrollment in college specific groups like the Berkeley Trio Program and Let's Rise Berkeley mentoring, and PSAT testing with post test feedback. HMS also focuses on providing opportunities for parents to learn about college and careers. HMS has developed Cougar College, a program for families to learn from teachers about ways to support college and career readiness at home. Families can also participate in Parent University and Parent Institute of Quality Education classes, both focused on college and career readiness.

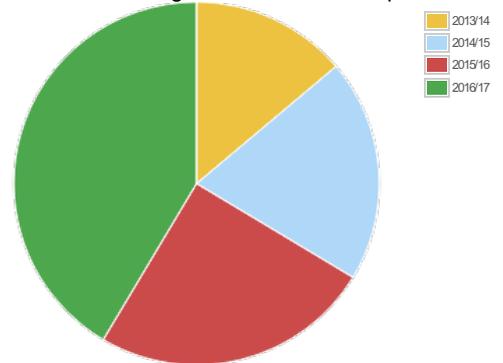
Career and College Readiness Student Outcomes

HMS staff believes that focusing on student outcomes is essential to preparation for Career and College readiness. This focus includes the development of personal and social skills that will help our students access career and college opportunities and keep them successfully engaged in life-long learning. Outcome data is important for our staff to address disciplinary and academic goals in order to enhance college and career readiness.

Career Readiness

HMS has partnered with UC Berkeley's college advising team to assist our students with college and career planning. Each year, students are recruited to participate in the Pre College Trio program where students are given the opportunity to attend college and career informational workshops. Along with attending these workshops, student participants receive individual quarterly visits to discuss career interests and pathways to reach their career goals. They are introduced to interest inventory websites and administered career assessments to begin to develop a career plan that can carry over into high school and college. The graph displays the number of students from each academic year that participated in the program; 30 from 2013/14, 43 from 2014/15, 54 from 2015/16, and 90 from 2016/17.

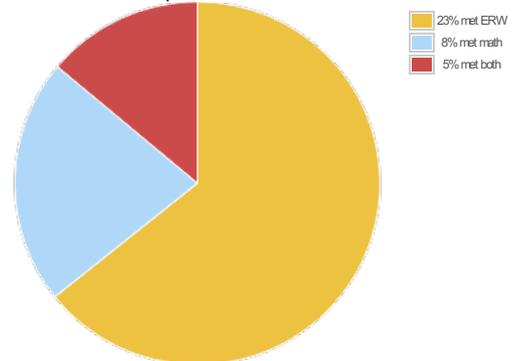
Middle and High School Plan developed



College Readiness

Preparation for successful transition into post-secondary education begins at HMS. Students are introduced to the early stages of a college planning process, and given tools, information and resources to become college ready. HMS counselors play a key role in guiding students on this college readiness pathway by giving students opportunities to measure their level of college readiness. 8th graders are given the Pre Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), the first step in measuring students' academic skills as they track into high school and college. Results of the PSAT are displayed in the chart. Out of 422 test takers, 5% met both ERW (English Reading Writing) and math benchmarks, 23% met ERW only, and 8% met math only.

Study and/or Test Taking Skills Acquired/Demonstrated



21st Century Skills

To improve literacy school wide, Helms implemented a commitment to use common language around what good readers do before, during, and after reading. Teacher worked on these goal in their classrooms with students to improve reading levels. Also to encourage students to read independently at their leisure, Helms held a Book Worm Challenge. Helms also hosted its annual school-wide Month of Mediation, with this year including Mindfulness practices. Conflict Mediation Presentations in Physical Education classes where students learn appropriate ways to approach another student in a conflict. Also in History classes, students received presentations on conflict management by their own peer mediators. Additionally, teachers also conducted class mini-lessons on A-G requirements and understanding Grade Point Average.

Additional Achievements:

- HMS 8th grade took the PSAT 8/9 in Fall 2016 and were connected online to Collegeboard and Kahn Academy
- College and Career Day: School- wide college attendance and career exploration
- Career Exploration: Technology Department took 100 students to Contra Costa College (CCC)

Career and College Readiness School Site Programs and Community Partnerships

HMS recognizes the social and emotional needs of students by providing a variety of individual therapy, group therapy, and mentoring programs. While meeting students' social and emotional needs, these program also encourages students' in academic success. Programs like Bay Area Community Resources (BACR), Familias Unidas, Y-team, and Bay Area Peace Keepers (BAP), assist in developing students' character and provide students with safe space to thrive. Examples of groups provided at Helms includes grief and anger management groups, girls' circles, manhood and young men's groups, African American girls group, and mindfulness groups.

School Site Programs

- After School Program: Tutoring and enrichment activities, 3-D printing, robotics, art and sports.
- Coffee Club: Parent engagement, information sessions and support. ESL classes.
- Helms Parent University: Parent engagement program, helping parents to navigate school systems.
- Peer Mediation: Students are specifically trained to facilitate and help mediate student conflicts.
- Project Success: Drug and alcohol prevention program, individual mentoring and group lesson.

Community Partnerships

- Catholic Charities: Supporting young men and women with African American girls and manhood groups.
- GEAR UP: Promoting college readiness and a college going culture.
- Familias Unidas: Offers in-depth educational parent workshops and girls support groups.
- Let's Rise-REACH: UC Berkeley (UCB) mentoring program serving Asian-Pacific Islander students.
- Mindful Life Project: Facilitates mindfulness and self-awareness sessions with students.
- Peacemakers: Health and wellness program, providing student mentorship and parent engagement.

Student Support Team

HMS SST promote academic, career and social development of all students and align with state and national professional standards for the counseling profession. SST provide equitable and engaging support in preparing all students to be college and career ready in partnership with CCC and UCB. Grade level CARE teams meet monthly to address critical needs and support for at risk students. HMS SST members are dedicated to attending trainings and conferences which advance our knowledge of the school counseling profession, theory and practice. HMS counselors also attend monthly district wide counseling meetings which provide the most updated information on college and career readiness and school climate issues. All certificated team members hold appropriate credentials which meet No Child Left Behind guidelines for highly qualified staff. HMS Counselors are also members of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and California Association of School Counselors (CASC).

Position	Years	Qualifications
Principal	10	MA Education
Vice Principal	10	BA, Juris Doctorate
Instructional Specialist	7	MA International Studies,
School Psychologist	5	MS Counseling
Case Manager	6	MSW PPS-SC
Case Manager	3	PsyD

Position	Years	Qualifications
School Counselor	16	MA Counseling
School Counselor	11	MA Counseling PPS-SC, PPCi, iMF
School Counselor	3	MA Counseling PPS-SC
School Counselor	2	MA Counseling PPS-SC
Community Support Coordinator	10	BA English Literature
School Resource Officer	19	AA Criminal Justice, Watch Commander

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