Principal's Message

The Student Support Team (SST) of Vista High School, which consists of an exemplary group of dedicated educators and staff, have accomplished creating a school with a safe and supportive environment for student learning. Students are treated with respect and benefit from strong relationships with their teachers. They are recognized as unique individuals who deserve a well-designed, individualized program in an independent study format. Our primary goal is to ensure that every student is proficient or higher in academic achievement and develops the academic, technological, collaborative, and social skills needed to graduate from high school in order to pursue higher education and careers. We have aligned this report card with our 2014-2015 Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), a living document that is reviewed regularly by members of the SST. Our career and college readiness goals for next year is to have all sophomores complete an online career exploration assignment using California CareerZone and to have at least 70% of seniors complete a FAFSA. Students have shown improvement in writing and math, our goal from last year, scoring comparably to other district schools in the first district benchmark assessments. These continue to be areas of focus.

Career and College Readiness Student Outcomes

The SST of Vista High, which consists of the entire faculty and staff, believe that focusing on student outcomes allows us to analyze the effectiveness of our student support systems and to modify them when needed. The student outcomes below are the results of the collaboration of the SST and our community partners. Each year more students complete community college courses and 100% of the students at Vista have a high school plan.

Career Readiness

Every supervising teacher at Vista is well-versed in analyzing student transcripts to determine exactly what courses and credits a student needs to achieve graduation. Teachers and students work together to plan a course of study for high school. A final in-depth analysis happens in a student’s senior year in the form of Senior Letters. Few students are enrolled at Vista for all four years of high school. As is more likely the case, students with credit deficiencies enroll at Vista as sophomores, juniors, or seniors. For those students who will not graduate in four years, a post high school plan is made that may lead to high school graduation. A graduation plan was made for 201 students in 2011-12, 195 students in 2012-13, and 164 students in 2013-14. The declining numbers reflect a reduction in staff and enrollment.

College Readiness

Students are encouraged to enroll in community college courses as a way to pursue interests, increase course options, and make up credits. Because our students are not in school 30 hours a week, there are more opportunities to take a community college course. Students usually complete courses at nearby Contra Costa College (CCC), which maintains a partnership with the district, and a close partnership with Vista High. Counselors from CCC have met with students to inform them of the process to register at the school and enroll in a course. In 2013-14, arrangements were made for Vista students to take placement tests for math and English in the computer lab on site at Vista High. There was a 50% increase in course completion between 2012 and 2014. The chart shows a growth from 17 to 26 to 34 students.
21st Century Skills

Students graduate with a strong foundation in 21st Century Skills. The very nature of independent study requires that students are adept at self-management. This 21st Century Skill is honed by meeting expectations of working and learning independently. Technology and information and media literacy has been incorporated into the curriculum this year. All students completed an Everfi.com course on Digital Citizenship and they are improving their keyboarding skills with Typing Web—critical for success on the Smarter Balanced assessments and a necessary 21st century workplace skill. Students have completed assignments using Google Docs and Edmodo. Seniors completed a Financial Literacy course. Students have been involved in a variety of community service projects and attended WE Day, a celebration of service learning.

Additional Achievements:
- In 2013-14, students assisted the non-profit Common Vision in planting a fruit orchard on campus.
- The Bay Area Rescue Mission has been the recipient of food collected in a student-organized food drive.
- A student environmental science club encourages a wise use of resources on the campus.

Career and College Readiness School Site Programs and Community Partnerships

The SST of Vista High interacts with many individuals, agencies, and programs in order to support the personal, academic, and career pursuits of our diverse student body. Many of these partnerships provide opportunities for learning and often exposes potential areas for future study or career. Some of the programs and community partnerships that are used at Vista are listed below.

School Site Programs
- Service Learning: Provides/promotes community service opportunities such as gardening and tutoring.
- College Board’s My College Quickstart: Provides resources for college and career planning.
- Everfi.com: Students complete a digital literacy course and a financial education course.
- Edmodo.com: Students engage in collaborative conversations on various curricular subjects.
- Typing.com: Students practice keyboarding skills to be successful on SBAC and gain 21st C. skills.

Community Partnerships
- West Contra Costa Retired Educators: scholarship opportunities
- Ed Fund: scholarship opportunities, FAFSA support
- El Sobrante Art Guild: provides opportunity for students to display their art
- Contra Costa College: student and parent workshops and support
- Chamberlain Foundation: received grants to extend programs
- Upward Bound: support program for diverse, at-risk students

Student Support Team

Our SST members hold a wide variety of educational degrees and professional memberships; collectively the team has more than 290 years of experience and training. The one-on-one aspect of our independent study school supports each student on a personal level which allows us to meet the needs of all students. The team works together to prepare students to be college and career ready, including 21st Century Skills development, which builds on a core of academic knowledge to learn the essential skills for success in today’s world, such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration. We lead students in learning about information media and technology skills. The following is a list of professional organizations to which team members belong: California Consortium for Independent Study, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, California Mathematics Council, the Association for California School Administrators, and California Association of School Psychologists.

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<th>Position</th>
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