



# Walter T. Helms Middle School SPARC 2015

## 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:** 1031

### Principal's Message

I am proud to acknowledge the Helms Middle School (HMS) Student Support Team (SST) for their critical role in promoting student academic and social success and school safety. We are committed to upholding the National Standards for School Counseling as indicated by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), and I strongly support their continued efforts. Our SST fosters an environment dedicated to the intellectual, emotional, physical, social, and cultural growth of all students. Utilizing the Support Personnel Accountability Report Card (SPARC) in the School Improvement Plan has helped us set goals for our SST process. HMS has made progress reducing violence on campus and utilizing test data as a means of identifying weakness in our curriculum. This year we will continue to focus on utilizing SST meetings in conjunction with small learning communities (SLC's) to improve student academic success and promote positive behavior. We have succeeded at this task on our site through collaboration, parental involvement and teamwork. Previous focus for improvement goals included reducing suspensions and increase academic performance index. Helms is a community school, connecting district, school, home and community resources through collaborative partnerships.

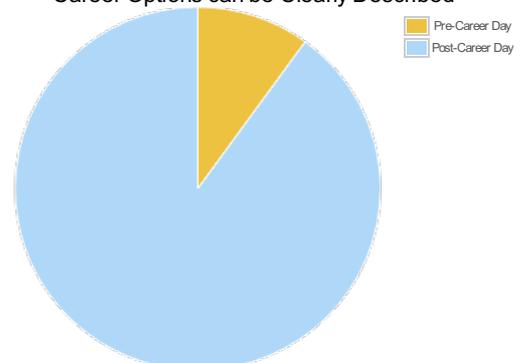
### Career and College Readiness Student Outcomes

Our staff believes that focusing on student outcomes is essential to preparation for Career and College. The area of 21st Century Skills 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

There were 48 community participants in Career Day, post secondary academic and vocational institutions participated to help students develop a career path that included academic planning. Pre Career Day we had 23% or 50 students identify careers of interest while post Career Day that number increased to 94% or 450 students. Also, Contra Costa College Career Exploration program provides study trips to various Bay Area locations exposing Helms students to many different career pathways. Students were also connected to turn-key college planning websites that provide students with critical information to make informed decisions for post-secondary education and career development.

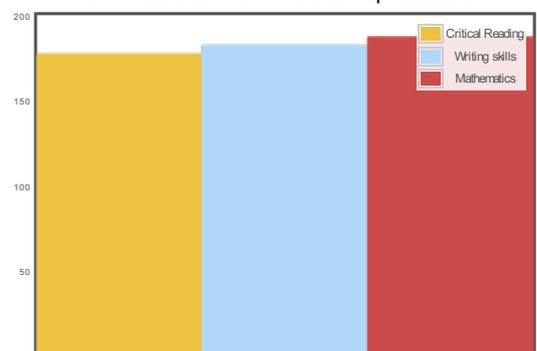
Career Options can be Clearly Described



#### College Readiness

At HMS all students are prepared for a successful transition into post-secondary education. Students are introduced to the early stages of the post-secondary planning process and given the necessary tools, information and resources to become College Ready. The HMS Counseling Department plays a key role in guiding students on this college readiness pathway by giving students opportunities that facilitate college ready engagement. HMS 8th grade students were given the ReditStep Assessment, the first step in an integrated series of tests aligned with Common Core that measure students academic skills and progression as they track into high school. Current ReditStep outcome data shows predicted preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) High Range results in the chart below.

PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifiers



## 21st Century Skills

Peer Mediators are the primary tool for conflict management. Student Supervisor, Mr. Turner, under the guidance of the counselors, and administration has recruited and trained 19 peer mediators, who collectively have a GPA of 3.3 or higher. The training is rigorous which reflects on quality of mediations resulting in a 95% success rate of conflict resolutions. Last year, we conducted 220 mediations, and our goal for 2014-2015 school year is to have at least 250 peer mediations.

Additional Achievements:

- 80% of our students visit two and four year college campuses while at Helms
- 90% of our students can identify three occupational areas of interest
- 100% of our students will have access to CaliforniaColleges.edu and Myroad.com.

## Career and College Readiness School Site Programs and Community Partnerships

The Helms Community Project and partnership is a collaborative effort of school, parents, students, community representatives and local government who work together to create a positive and supportive environment at Helms so that all students can learn. The Helms Community School Director works to link students and families with a variety of community and school-based services to promote resiliency. In the 2013-2014 school year 20% of Helms students were referred for therapeutic services such as individual and group therapy and mentoring services. Collaboration with local community agencies include Bay Area Community Resources (BACR) to promote the healthy development of individuals and families and student development.

### School Site Programs

- Community Violence Solutions: addresses human trafficking.
- Educational Guidance Center: assists enrolled participants with their academic pursuits.
- Restorative Justice: alternative form of discipline to address behavior concerns and repair harm.
- After School Program: tutoring and enrichment activities to promote academic and social success.
- Project Success: drug and alcohol prevention program through individual mentoring and group lessons.
- Promoting Gender Respect-STAND: boy's group focused on Domestic Violence Prevention Program.

### Community Partnerships

- Bay Area Community Resources GATEWAY: MediCal services for individual and group crisis counseling.
- Bay Area Community Resources Y-TEAM: MediCal services for individual and group crisis counseling.
- Familias Unidas: offers therapy for adults and anger management classes. Serves uninsured children.
- Mobile Health Clinics: offers physical and mental health services twice a week
- Let's Rise-REACH: Mentoring program serving predominantly Asian-American/Pacific Islander students.
- San Pablo Community Center: youth, family and senior services, referrals and resources.

## Student Support Team

HMS SST are aligned with state and national initiatives. Before meeting, grade level teams review student information and suggest interventions to be made prior to our SST meeting. Furthermore, our team is dedicated to attending latest trainings and conferences in order to keep up with ever changing landscapes in education. All certificated team members hold appropriate credentials which meet No Child Left Behind guidelines for highly qualified staff. Counselors at Helms ensure success of our students in academic, social, career and personal domains. Furthermore, Helms Counselors are members of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and California Association of School Counselors (CASC).

Position	Years	Qualifications
Interim Principal	8	Master of Arts in Education
Counselor	6	Master of Science
Community Outreach Coordinator	18	Master of Science
Instructional Specialist	9	Master of Arts
School Safety Officer	31	Bachelor of Science
School Resource Officer	8	Bachelor of Arts

Position	Years	Qualifications
Interim Vice Principal	9	Bachelor of Arts, Juris Doctorate
Counselor	16	Master of Arts
Psychologist	16	Master of Science
Office Manager	11	Associate of Arts
Counselor	7	Master of Arts
Counselor	11	Master of Arts

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