

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

The SSPT understands volunteer involvement is a critical component in building a positive school community. **Volunteers are welcome and encouraged** to participate in our counseling programs and activities designed to academically, personally and socially develop our students. We sincerely welcome volunteers in these and other areas:

- **Parent/Teacher/Student Association:**

Linda Luhman - Principal's Secretary - (310) 533-4299 x7681 lluhman@tusd.org

- **Registration:**

Ms. Tiffany Sapienza - Counselor - (310) 533-4299 x7609 tsapienza@tusd.org

- **College Information Night:**

Mr. Philip Drasner - Counselor - (310) 533-4299 x7602 pdrasner@tusd.org

- **College and Career Center:**

Ms. Sara Ackelson - Counselor - (310) 533-4299 x7611 sackelson@tusd.org

- **English Language Multicultural Advisory Committee:**

Mrs. Nadeane Peterson - ELL Coordinator - (310) 533-4299 x7642 npeterson@teacher.tusd.org

We encourage all parents to actively participate at WHS and welcome suggestions for new avenues of parental and community involvement. Please contact our head counselor Tania Barricklow at (310) 533-4299 x7612 tbarricklow@tusd.org

FOCUS FOR IMPROVEMENT

The SSPT is highly committed to continuous improvement and welcomes feedback from the school and community. The counselors strive to align improvement in accordance with the National Standards for School Counseling. As a first year SPARC we will set goals for improvement and report on the progress and implementation in next year's document. Through the evaluation of student performance data, disciplinary data, and student, parent and staff improvement surveys we have chosen to focus on the following improvements:

- **Promote Conflict Mediation on campus:** In reviewing data from both the conflict mediators, as well as students participating in the program, we realized there was a lack of knowledge on campus about the program. We plan to work with parents, teachers, student council, and administration at West to promote our re-initiated (via AB 1802 counselor funds) Conflict Mediation Program. A plan will be formed based on collaboration with the above mentioned entities.
- **Offer more career exploration opportunities:** Currently, the ASVAB is offered to 11th grade students and the COPS to freshman. We would also like to offer the Career Exploration Inventory to our sophomores and then review the results with them individually.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

The SSPT is dedicated to providing open communication and pertinent information to our school community in a personable manner. We use a variety of channels to keep our community as well as our faculty, administration, classified staff, Torrance Unified School Board and district administrators involved. Our Superintendent, Board of Trustees and faculty will be given a copy of our SPARC report. Electronic and printed forms of communication are utilized in addition to our school-wide emails. The SSPT communicates with parents and students via our multi-lingual staff. Also, our school website, including our Counselor's Corner is offered in eight different languages. Below are some examples of the communication between our staff, student, parents and School Board:

Personal Contact

- Parent, counselor, student, and teacher meetings (translators available).
- Individual student and parent conferences
- SST, IEP, 504 Plan and School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meetings
- Classroom presentations
- College application meetings and financial aid workshops
- Grade-level parent meetings
- Tenth grade counseling meetings
- Visitations to feeder schools
- School Site Council
- Course planning/scheduling

Electronic

- School Website: www.whs.tusd.org (8 languages)
- Fax - (310) 972-6544
- Parent Connect

Electronic (continued)

- Auto dialer phone messaging system for absences.
- SPARC is available on school website
- Counselor's Corner

Print

- Progress reports & report cards (translations available)
- Bulletin boards
- SPARC is given to all members of school community
- Counseling social/emotional/health & well-being brochures
- School & district calendars
- Bi-monthly Principal's Newsletter
- Counseling Office Bulletin (COB) - monthly publication
- Annual Counseling Office Resource Bulletin (CORB)
- School Accountability Report Card (SARC)
- Student Planners
- Daily Bulletin

For more information about this document, please call (310) 533-4299.

West High School 2007 - 2008

S.P.A.R.C.



Support Personnel Accountability Report Card

A continuous improvement document sponsored by the California Department of Education and Los Angeles County Office of Education

Address: 20401 Victor Street Torrance, CA. 90503
Principal: Ben Egan
Phone: (310) 533-4299
Fax: (310) 972-6483
Website: www.whs.tusd.org
Enrollment: 2,261
School Year: Traditional
Grade Levels: 9,10,11,12
Established: 1962
Setting: Suburban
County: Los Angeles



PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

"MAKING LEARNING MEANINGFUL"

The mission of West High School (WHS) is to ensure that learning is meaningful and enjoyable in order for students to develop a dynamic curiosity about the world. The Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) plays a vital role in promoting academic success and school safety for all students. Using the National Standards for School Counseling as a guide, the SSPT exceeds expectations in providing assistance within academic, career and personal/social domains. Implementation of AB1802 has provided an additional full-time counselor focusing on the at-risk student population. This counselor has re-established the Conflict Mediation program and employed a new study skills course. As the new principal at WHS I have been consistently impressed by the SSPT's dedication to student well-being and their continuous implementation of innovative programs to meet the needs of our students. Considering the importance of this document, we have incorporated it into the goals of the School Site Plan for Student Achievement and Western Association of School and Colleges (WASC) accreditation. The SPARC will also be presented to the community to showcase the hard work and excellence of the team as well as share our accomplishments and plans for improvement in the future.

STUDENT SUPPORT PERSONNEL TEAM

The diverse student population at WHS is served by a cohesive and comprehensive SSPT led by professional school counselors who design, coordinate, implement and evaluate an equitable student support system for all. This support system includes, but is not limited to, student academic, college and career planning, Student Success Team (SST), attendance monitoring, conflict management, classroom presentations, group/individual counseling, and course scheduling. The SSPT regularly attends workshops and conferences to keep apprised of the most current educational practices directed at the academic, career, and personal/social domains.

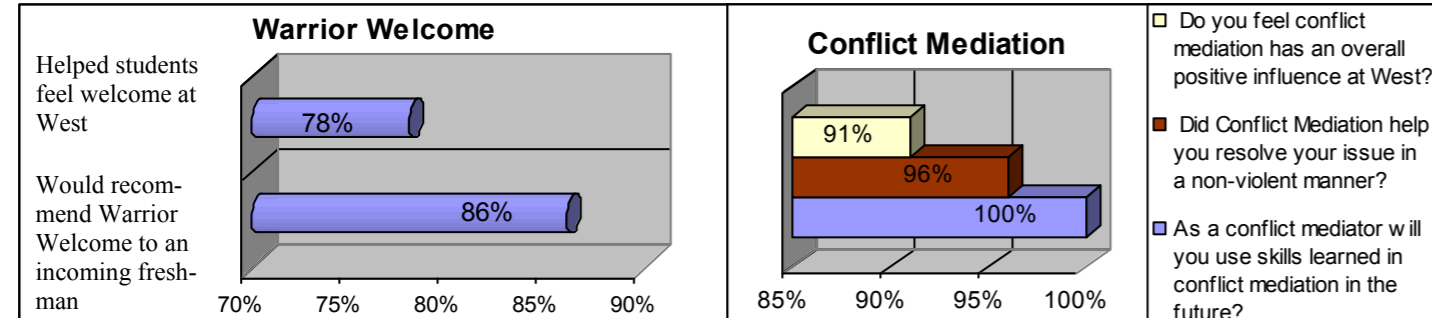
Team Member	Education	Years of Experience*	Team Member	Education	Years of Experience*
Counseling Department			Medical Personnel		
5 Counselors	M.A., M.S., & PPS Cred.	40	1 School Nurse	R.N.	15
1 School Psychologist	M.S., P.P.S	4	2 Health Aides	Certificate	44
1 Counseling Intern	M.S.&CLAD	1	Additional Support Staff		
3 Counseling Office Secretaries /Records Clerk	A.A., M.A.	50	7 Campus Security Officers	A.A.	115
1 Speech & Language Pathologist	M.A.	10	1 School Resource Officer	Police Academy	4
Administration/Front Office			9 Special Education Teachers	M.A., B.S.	124
1 Principal	M.A.	4	1 English Language Development Coordinator	B.A., CLAD	20
2 Assistant Principals	M.A.	10	1 Gifted/Talented Education	M.A.	18
1 Dean	M.A.	16	1 Student Activities Director	M.A.	6
1 Site Supervisor	Some college	4	1 Librarian	B.A.	4
2 Attendance Clerks	A.A.	36	3 Language Interpreters	B.A., M.A., M.S.	25
6 Secretaries	A.A.	115	3 Community Counselors	M.A., M.S.W.	17
1 Counseling Specialist	M.A. & PPS Cred.	18			

* Years of experience combined when more than one individual is listed.

Members of the Student Support Personnel Team are members in the following organizations: American School Counselor Association, California Association of School Counselors, Association of California School Administrators, Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, National Board for Professional Teaching, California School Employees Association, California Teachers Association, National Education Association, California Teachers of English Association, California Association Director of Activities, California Association of Student Leaders, California Association of Gifted Students, California Community College Student Affairs Association, and Alpha Gamma Sigma Statewide Advisory Board.

SCHOOL CLIMATE & SAFETY

The relationship between student support services and school climate/safety is critical. Support personnel teach and promote a healthy and safe learning environment for all students. SSPT coordinates and implements school-wide programs such as peer mediation, individual/group counseling, health screenings, Warrior Welcome, drug prevention and intervention, monthly campus emergency procedure rehearsals, Positive Choices counseling referrals (an alternative to disciplinary referrals) and utilization of partnerships with community agencies. As an additional safety measure WHS employs seven campus security personnel and an on-campus School Resource Officer. These programs and resources work together to significantly impact school climate/safety and increase student connectedness. As a result, parents and students choose WHS for its reputation as a safe school environment.



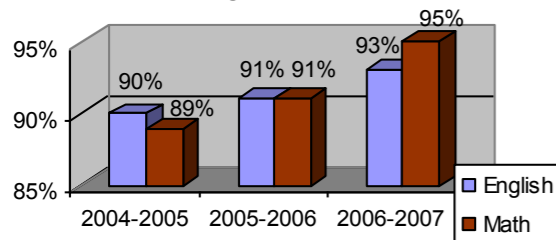
Warrior Welcome is an orientation for incoming 9th graders helping students feel connected to their new environment via peer interactions and campus tours. Counselors visit feeder middle schools to encourage student participation in the program.

Conflict mediation aids students in resolving disputes in a non-violent manner with the help of trained peers. The program was re-instated in 2006 by the counselor hired from AB 1802 funds. Student surveys above substantiate conflict mediation's success.

STUDENT RESULTS

The SSPT is committed to student success using a comprehensive counseling program addressing the personal/social, academic, and college/career needs of students based on National Standards for School Counseling. To ensure student success, it is critical to evaluate programs to determine their effectiveness. Our team collects and analyzes data to provide a comprehensive counseling program that is responsive to student needs and driven by student results. The graphs below illustrate how the SSPT utilizes this data to contribute to the success of all students.

Students Passing CAHSEE On 1st Attempt



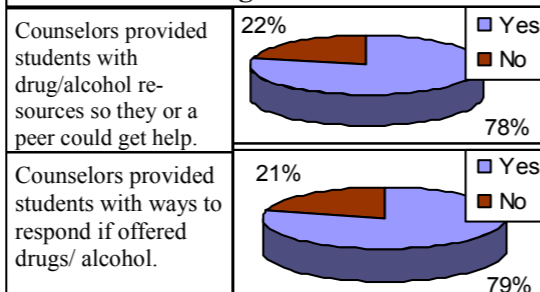
Academic Domain: Standard B

Students will complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options, including college. **Data source:** California Department of Education. High school graduation, the first essential step for all students, will open as many avenues possible for post-secondary choices. The SSPT team works closely with teachers to identify low performing students before they take the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). For students not passing on the first attempt, counselors provide tutoring, study skills courses, SST meetings and individual counseling.

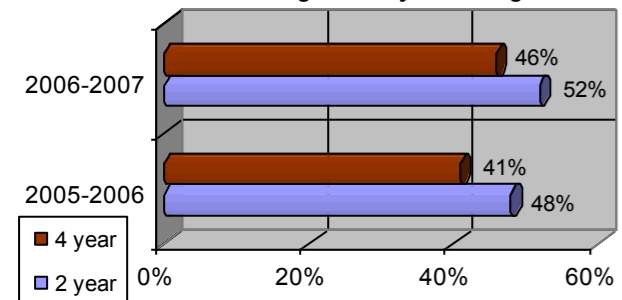
Personal/Social Domain: Standard A

Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others. **Data source:** 2007 drug/alcohol post-presentation student survey. A drug/alcohol free environment is a high priority to our SSPT as it is vital to student success and positive adolescent development. The counselor's presentation offered students current drug/alcohol facts, equipped students with exit strategies if offered drugs/alcohol, and local resources so they or a peer could receive help. The results of the presentation, coordinated and delivered by the school counselors, are represented by the graphs:

Counselors Drug/Alcohol Presentation



Graduates Attending 2 and 4 year Colleges



Career Domain: Standard B

Students will employ strategies to achieve future career goals with success and satisfaction. **Data source:** Class of 2006 and 2007 West Senior Survey. The drive to attend college, created by SSPT, is continuing to increase at West. From 2005 to 2007 the percentage of students going to college rose from 89% to 98% respectively. The SSPT clearly believes college is essential in achieving future career goals in our competitive society. College builds the foundation to help graduates achieve success and satisfaction in their futures.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

"A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL"

The SSPT plays a vital role in implementing programs which assess and monitor student achievement, providing appropriate interventions to benefit our entire student population. We are proud of our efforts that have resulted in the following achievements:

- Supplemental School Counseling Program (AB 1802)- Funding a new counselor to work with "at risk" students, re-instated conflict mediation, and assistance with passing the CAHSEE. Preliminary AB 1802 data indicates (71) grade 10 consultations for CAHSEE by intervention counselor with a 75% (53) pass rate after intervention.
- Academic Performance Index (API) - West surpassed the statewide performance target of 800 with a score of 812 in 2007, ranking 9 out of 10. SSPT targets students who need additional support for the CAHSEE, a calculated component of API.
- College and Financial Aid - Workshops, parent informational nights, college representatives on campus and group/ individual counseling have contributed to a college going culture (98% attend college) and an increase in the amount of scholarships awarded. Collaboration with community resources such as Honda has contributed to the success of these events.
- One-on-one Student Meetings - During Spring registration, counselors meet individually with each student to discuss grades, credits, test scores, post high school plans, summer school, and courses selection for the following year. Counselors meet individually with seniors in the fall. By spring of their 9th grade year, freshmen have in place a four-year educational plan.

MEASUREMENTS

The following assessments are integral to the management of our proactive and responsive counseling program. The SSPT depends on surveys and assessments to target, develop, and modify programs. Counselors play a vital role in all assessments by administering tests and interpreting results for students, faculty, parents/guardians; developing and implementing interventions as needed.

Academic Domain

- **PSAT, SAT and ACT** – are promoted, strategies taught, areas of focus for improvement discussed, and relationship to college admissions explained.
- **California English Language Development Test (CELDT)** - measures English language proficiency used by SSPT to determine skills growth and program placement.
- **CAHSEE** – analyzed to determine graduation eligibility and to facilitate interventions. Students who did not pass are placed on the Student Support Counselor's caseload allowing them to receive additional guidance.
- **Special Education Assessments** - Psychologist coordinates assessments to offer services for students with needs.

Career Domain

- **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)** – Counselors interpret data with students to assist in identification of strengths and potential careers and education.
- **Career Occupational Preference System (COPS)** - given to freshmen to aid in their exploration of future careers.

Personal/Social Domain

- **Health Screenings** - WHS nurse conducts screenings to identify health barriers to academic success.
- **Attendance Queries** – Information is used to identify at-risk students in need of personal counseling and other services.
- **Personal Survey** - Counselors survey students to determine the effectiveness of programs and make future improvements.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS/RESOURCES

The SSPT collaborates with an array of resources, community agencies and organizations to support and assist all students and families. Parents, staff, community members, businesses and local agencies are critical components in the educational process and help to ensure the success of our students. These partnerships enhance our comprehensive program by providing support in all domains of the students' development - academic, career and personal/social.

Academic:

Post-secondary Institutions: El Camino College, Marymount College, University of California (Berkeley, Los Angeles, Davis, Riverside, Irvine, and Santa Barbara), University of Southern California, Stanford, Concordia, Occidental, and Loyola Marymount.

Articulation with feeder middle schools: Bert Lynn and Jefferson Middle Schools.

Local scholarship providing organizations: Granoff, Torrance Education Foundation, Parent Teacher Support Associations, Sandpipers, Torrance Police Officer's Association, Torrance Women's Club, Kiwanis, Torrance Rotary, Lions Club, Shorewood Realty, Torrance Y's Men's Club, Torrance Council, A. Dewart Memorial Scholarship, and Torrance Firefighters (over 40 organizations).

Additional Partners: Torrance Adult Education, College Board, Princeton Review, and Exxon-Mobil.

Career:

Career Inventories and Job Training: United States Armed Forces and Southern California Regional Occupation Center.

Workability and Transition Partnership Program: Starbucks, Sports Authority, Soup Plantation, Elephant Bar, and Blockbuster.

Corporate Sponsor: American Honda Motors Company.

Summer Internship Sponsors: Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Pasadena Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Los Angeles Pediatric Society, and Exxon-Mobil Green Team.

Additional Partners: Northrop-Grumman, City of Torrance, and Torrance Memorial Medical Center

Personal/Social:

Teen Center: The Attic

Law Enforcement: Torrance Police Department.

Counseling Services: Thelma Mc Millen Center, La Vida, Juvenile Diversion Program, National Counsel on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), and Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC).

Additional partners: Torrance Council of Parent/Teacher Association, West High Booster Club, and West Torrance Lion Club.