Visitacion Valley Middle School
450 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134 (415) 469-4590
Mr. James S. Dierke, Principal


School Description

The school’s mission is to provide a quality education that prepares students for a fulfilling life in a global society. The school, rich in ethnicity and culture, is known nationally for its innovative programs. Teachers and students are assigned to academic families that focus instruction on technology, writing, hands-on learning, and problem-solving skills. Students can extend their interests through computer technology, band, art, drama, life skills, and leadership classes. In addition, a variety of trips are scheduled throughout the year. Parents/guardians are important members of the Vis Valley Family and participate in site activities and serve as voting members on the school’s decision-making council known as Key Stakeholders in Education Council. A variety of services are offered through the Community Beacon. The Beacon works in collaboration with social, recreational, physical and mental health agencies to provide after-school, evening, and weekend activities for youth and their families. Social workers provide direct services to students and families through a School Coordinated Care Team. Numerous after-school activities such as tutoring, gardening, swimming, dancing, cooking, art, sports are offered to students. Adult classes (ESL, Computer Skills, etc.) are also offered during the day, evening, and weekends. All of these groups are unified by the School Site Council and guided by our School Site Plan.

School Priorities

For each district goal (listed below), there are measurable objectives. Every school has developed a school site plan to achieve each objective and has identified its individual school priorities:

A. To increase academic achievement in reading and math especially for the following groups: Bottom Quartile, African American, Latino, ELL, SpEd, GATE, and EDY.

B. Increase support services to students and their families.

C. Continue improving the safety, security and accessibility of the school site.

District Mission and Goals

The mission of the San Francisco Unified School District is to provide each student with an equal opportunity to succeed by promoting intellectual growth, creativity, self discipline, cultural and linguistic sensitivity, democratic responsibility, economic competence and physical and mental health so that each student can achieve to his or her maximum ability.

To achieve this mission, the Board of Education has adopted the following goals:
1) To improve teaching and learning to enhance the academic achievement of all students;
2) To improve staff, parent and community participation in the educational process;
3) To maintain school environments that are safe, secure and attractive;
4) To build a school environment that is fully integrated in all its programs and activities and provides equal opportunity for all students;
5) To improve and expand the Early Childhood Education Program and integrate it into the K-12 Program; and
6) To increase and expand inter-agency collaboration to better serve our students.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Board has adopted the following set of philosophical tenets:

* All individuals should learn to live and work in a world that is characterized by interdependence and cultural diversity.
* All individuals want to learn and to be recognized for their achievements.
* Learning is an interactive process that occurs when students understand and are able to communicate new concepts through carefully crafted and guided challenging experiences defined by clear learning goals and rigorous performance standards.

Philosophical Tenets

Grade Span: 6-8  Student Enrollment: 549
Building (sq.ft.): 113,600  Average Daily Attendance: 96.30%
Year of Construction: 1971  Optional Enrollment Requests: 35.9%
Children Center/Childcare: No  Special Education Students: 12.6%

1. LEP/NEP (ELL): Limited English Proficient or Non English Proficient (English Language Learner)
2. EDY: Educationally Disadvantaged Youth
3. % Met: Refers to the objectives to achieve SFUSD goals

This document is prepared in compliance with Proposition 98 and Ed. Code 33126.
Counseling and Student Support Services

The standard District counseling ratio at middle schools is 760 to 1. Visitacion Valley Middle School Coordinated Care Team is becoming a model for urban schools. The Care Team meets once a week to discuss the progress of students with special needs through a case management format. Administrators, teachers, social workers, nurses, psychologists, physicians, school counselors, parents and guardians collaboratively work together to address the physical, mental, social and emotional health of students through the coordination of the Pupil Services Office. The Pupil Services Office prides itself on its pro-active approach to assisting students through conferences, daily progress reports, contracts, etc. On a daily basis, administrators, counselors, social workers, nurse, and special education teachers are available to meet with parent/guardians, teachers and students.

Student Achievement

*SAT9* (Spring 1998, 1999 & 2000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unmatched performance data

Portions of the Stanford Achievement Test 9 (SAT9) are used by this District to measure individual student progress and proficiency standards.

SAT 9 - Reading

SAT 9 - Mathematics

Academic Performance Index

Statewide  Similar Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 Rank</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details about the API program including an explanation of the nature and purpose of the various components can be found on the web at “www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/api”

Ethnic/Gender Diversity

Ethnic/Gender Representation (Percents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>AA%</th>
<th>AI%</th>
<th>C%</th>
<th>F%</th>
<th>J%</th>
<th>K%</th>
<th>L%</th>
<th>ONW%</th>
<th>OW%</th>
<th>Male%</th>
<th>Female%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>41.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificated</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>48.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classified</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visitacion Valley Middle School continually attempts to hire staff members that reflect the ethnic and language diversity of its student population. Sensitivity to cultural diversity and the ability to communicate in the languages of the students are of critical importance if the school is to achieve its mission of a quality education for every student. We are proud of our efforts.
Teacher Evaluation

Administrators, probationary and long term substitute teachers, and all classified personnel are evaluated by their supervisors every year. Tenured teachers are evaluated every two years. The evaluation processes are determined through contractual agreements with the United Administrators of San Francisco, the United Educators of San Francisco, and the Civil Service Commission of the City and County of San Francisco.

Student Behavior

School Suspension rates:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issue</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to provide a healthy climate, we have regulations consistent with the Student Behavior Handbook. Last year at Visitacion Valley MS, 72 students were suspended for violations of those regulations. The following program(s) have been included in the School Site Plan to achieve the District's objective to reduce the number of suspensions: the belief that respect is the foundation of a positive environment; a discipline policy that is based on dignity for all cultures; an emphasis on positive behavior and academic success supported through assemblies and other recognition activities.

Teacher Assignment

Out of 3,279 teachers in the District, 162 are teaching with emergency credentials and 55 with program waivers. All teachers write a commitment to the school expectations and mission. Every teacher agrees to establish high academic standards and to provide the support needed to reach those expectations. Life experiences, training, understanding of technology as an instructional tool, commitment to community involvement and cultural sensitivity are factors considered during the hiring process.

Class Size

Middle School  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Middle Schools provide 57,525 Instructional minutes per year.

All schools offer and often exceed the minimum required number of instructional minutes per year. All instructional days meet or exceed the state minimum requirement for instructional minutes.

Teacher/Staff Professional Development and Curriculum Improvement


Professional development is a part of every school site plan and a major component of instructional support departments. The district's professional development program provides opportunities for teachers to implement the district's core curriculum for all students, update subject area expertise, use data to plan instructional improvement strategies, and acquire new instructional strategies. Leadership development across content areas is facilitated centrally, and for educators and parents each school has three days for site-determined professional development.

The Visitacion Valley staff is involved in a variety of workshops and conferences throughout the year. During the summer the staff participates in 3 days of intensive planning where the school's mission, commitment to the philosophical tenets and curriculum are reviewed and specific goals are developed for the coming year. In addition to district staff development offerings, the school focuses on staff development in the areas of curriculum and instruction, assessment, and technology. Types of site workshops are determined by teachers based on an analysis of conditions of the school and District requirements. Many of our staff are called upon to serve as presenters at workshops and conferences.

Quality of School Instruction and Leadership

Representatives from each family of teachers are elected to the Leadership Team of the school. The purpose of the Leadership Team is to assist with ongoing assessment of the site educational program. All decisions are made by the school site council. The quality of school instruction is assessed through the school design, monitoring of student progress and constant evaluation of the curriculum during the monthly meetings. All teachers meet regularly in content area teams to evaluate the curriculum being taught.

Average Salaries, Budget Percentages & Expenditure per Student

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1998-99 SALARY COMPARISON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Teacher's Salary</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Range Teacher's Salary</td>
<td>$49,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Teacher's Salary</td>
<td>$59,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal's Average Salary</td>
<td>$78,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent's Salary</td>
<td>$137,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure per Student</td>
<td>$4,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Budget for Teacher's Salaries</td>
<td>43.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Budget for Administrators</td>
<td>4.84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Districts over 19,999 ADA

Substitute Teachers

During the 1999-2000 school year, the Vis Valley MS teacher attendance rate was 95%. To maintain the high quality of instruction, all substitute teachers receive clear direction and information at the school. When substitutes are not provided by the District, classes are covered by administrators, counselors, and classroom teachers during their preparation period.
Textbooks and Instructional Materials

The review, selection, and purchase of textbooks and instructional materials are carried out in conjunction with the California eight-year curriculum improvement cycle and District priorities. In 1997-98, there were district-wide adoptions of K-8 English Language Arts, K-5 Spanish Language Arts, 9-12 Spanish, economics, biology, biotechnology and physics instructional materials and in 1999-2000 there was an adoption for K-8 History/Social Science. Content and performance standards for English Language Arts, mathematics, and science are being implemented.

Careful budgeting by the staff provides supplementary quality instructional materials such as multiple copies of books, reference books, and literature books in many languages to meet the educational, cultural and language needs of our students. Funds are also allocated to support the use of computers as an instructional tool by students and staff in every classroom, in the library and in the three computer labs. The library is automated and linked to local public libraries and universities for research. Students at Visitacion Valley Middle School have access to the world on a daily basis through the Internet.

School Facilities and Safety

Current Conditions
The Muni turnaround is scheduled for construction at the entrance of the VVMS parking lot off of Visitacion Avenue; new ventilation and heating system installed; parking at the front of the school paved; bushes trimmed and debris removed from the paths leading to Raymond Street; and hallway light tubes and covers installed on 1st and 2nd floors.

Planned Improvements
Improvement of concrete paving in back parking lot, installation of new flag pole, partnerships with San Francisco Conservation Corps to assist in gardening project, installation of new interior lighting for classrooms and exterior lighting in the parking area.

Needed Improvements
Classroom and hallways of 2nd and 3rd floors need painting, exterior of the building needs painting, windows need replacing, reline faculty parking and install exterior gate on Raymond St. entrance.

Parent/Community Involvement

The school’s parent organization is known as Key-SEC (Key Stakeholders in Education Council). Key-SEC is composed of students, parents, staff, and community members, who are members of the SSC, SAC, and BAC. The council meets on a regular basis to provide feedback and recommendations on a variety of school issues and has final approval on the school’s budgeting allocations. All of these groups are coordinated via the SSC and guided by the SSC along with our PQR results and Safe Schools Plan.

For further information about our school or if you have questions about this document, please feel free to call us.

Si necesita información sobre nuestra escuela o si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este prospecto, llámenos.

Nếu muốn biết thêm chi tiết về trường học hoặc về tập tài liệu này, xin quí vị gọi điện thoại cho chúng tôi.

Kung kailangan ang karagdagang impormasyon tungkol sa ating paaralan O gustong magtanong tungkol sa mga kailangang dokumento, maari kayon tumawag sa amin.

Если у вас есть вопросы, или нужна дополнительная информация, пожалуйста позвоните по телефону.

如果你們需要任何有關學校的資料或有任何關於此文件的問題，請打電話與我們聯絡。