

# **Henry M. Gunn High School**

## **Safe Learning Environment & Comprehensive Safe School Plan 2016-2017**

The mission of Henry M. Gunn High School is to foster a community of creative thinkers who will acquire knowledge, skills, values and integrity; to be resilient, responsible, respectful, contributing citizens; to lead rewarding lives which pursue personal excellence and life-long learning.

*Demographics:* The total enrollment during the 2015-2016 school year was 1,897. The school district and Gunn High School participated in a voluntary desegregation agreement that included approximately 68 students from East Palo Alto. Gunn had approximately 147 students with special needs and 103 students whose needs were met through a 504 plan. The diverse population of Gunn students included African American 1.4%, Native American or Native Alaskan 0.1%, Asian 43.8%, Filipino 0.8%, Hispanic or Latino 8.8%, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0.2%, Caucasian 38.7%, two or more races 6.2%, socioeconomically disadvantaged 8.1%, English learners 4.3%, students with disabilities 8.2%, and foster youth 0.1%. In addition to traditional parenting, students in the Gunn community are being raised in a variety of non-traditional households consisting of single parents, foster parents, grandparents, adoptive parents, or other family structures.

### *Programs to Support a Safe School Climate*

**Small Learning Community (SLC)** is designed for freshmen and provides a tightly knit community, integrated curriculum, outdoor adventure, and opportunities to grow as leaders. Students are enrolled together in the same English, World History, and Biology courses. In addition, the SLC teachers and students work together to explore common themes, and to demonstrate knowledge in cross-curricular projects. SLC courses focus on leadership, character, and team building. The SLC offers students outdoor adventure trips and leadership training. The theme for 2016-17 is *A Sense of Place*. Students will explore their place in history and in the local and global community in our integrated curriculum. The SLC provides 9th graders with a sense of place at Gunn, as they transition from the middle to the high school.

**Challenge Success (CS)** is a Stanford-based program that based on the belief that society has become too focused on grades, test scores and performance, leaving little time and energy for our kids to become resilient, successful, meaningful contributors in the 21st century. The program provides families and schools practical, research-based tools necessary to raise healthy, motivated kids. The focus for the 2015-16 school year was to assess, reflect and influence the climate and culture regarding academic vulnerability, and to assess, reflect and influence communication systems to inform and connect the community. The Challenge Success Team includes students, parents, staff and stakeholder groups.

The Gunn Challenge Success Team's focus has been on promoting an environment that examines the social-emotional well being of students while maintaining high academic standards. Last year the Gunn CS Team organized a "Diverse Paths to Success" panel and offered "Student for a Day" experiences to staff members as an opportunity for teachers to follow a student's schedule for an entire day to personally experience the demands of a typical day for students, and then discuss experiences at a staff meeting.

**College Pathways** is a program designed to increase the support for our students of color in obtaining their individual goals surrounding attending a four-year university. We will have a full-time school counselor working to support historically underrepresented students and their families with preparation for post-secondary college experiences.

**Inclusive Practices** at Gunn has moved to an inclusive school model, serving our students with special needs in the least restrictive environment to the largest extent possible for each student's unique needs. Many students with IEPs are receiving their instruction within the general education classroom, by utilizing a co teacher, instructional aide support or a direct support outside of the classroom in the form of an Academic Planning class for pre teaching and re teaching concepts.

**Focus on Success/AVID** is an award winning study and life skills elective, designed to support students in their core academic classes through lessons in organization, time management, study skills, goal setting, and healthy lifestyles and by providing homework time and support from tutors.

**Not in Our Schools** is a weeklong campaign designed to promote acceptance, awareness, and identity safety, and to increase understanding and encourage discussion about diversity in the Gunn community.

**Professional Learning Communities** Professional development intends to provide teachers time during our contractual workday to reflect on their teaching practice and have meaningful conversations with colleagues about student learning (thinking) and pedagogy that will increase effective teaching in order to meet our school wide goals.

**R.O.C.K. (Reach Out, Care, Know) / Sources of Strength** Students committed to listening and talking with other students about anything and everything. ROCK is a peer advisory group/student support group that is completely student-run.

**Student Success Team Discussions** are designed to provide teachers an opportunity to collaborate with guidance counselors, teachers, and administrators about the concerns for students, and possibly brainstorm a plan that provides academic and social-emotional supports in order to create a road to success for these students. There is a systematic approach to monitor student progress and the use of support structures, and communicate progress to the appropriate adults.

**Titan Connect** is a freshman transition program that welcomes freshman to Gunn while informing them about Gunn's unique resources and culture and building meaningful connections with peers and staff.

**Wellness Center** is a place on campus where students may go to find relief from the social and academic pressures of school. They may take a break, have a cup of tea or snack, or talk with a therapist about specific issues that may be causing distress.

### *Programs to Support Physical Safety on Campus*

**Fire Drills** are conducted regularly to ensure staff and students are aware of the procedures to exit the building and reconvene of the football field

**Code Red Drills** are conducted annually to ensure staff and students are aware of the procedures to secure the classroom to deter entrance from a possible threat of an intruder.

**Safe Paths to Schools** is an education campaign to ensure students and parents understand the safe route for biking or walking to campus.