



Taft Community School (K-5)

Community School with neighborhood boundaries

Principal: Michelle Griffith
Assistant Principal: Lupe Guzman
Community School Coordinator: Carlin Politzer
2006-07 Enrollment: 520

Overview

At Taft Community School our mission is that our students, parents, staff, and community members work together to ensure every student meets or exceeds academic standards. By building on diverse backgrounds, providing educational opportunities and resources, and fostering successful learning experiences, we are producing lifelong learners and contributing members of a global society. As a Community School, we promote student success by focusing on the broad community context in which education and learning happen. The fundamental belief guiding this approach is a conviction that schools, families and communities can work together for their common good. Community schools draw from several disciplines such as education, community development and youth development.



SPECIAL FEATURES

- Teaching staff is trained in the latest, effective teaching strategies such as Board Math and Language, Frontloading, etc.
 - Continuous training and coaching is implemented throughout the year to promote standards-based curriculum that is both rigorous and supportive.
 - For additional support in reading, teachers are trained in LindaMood-Bell techniques to provide individual and small group reading intervention.
 - After school and intersession programs are offered to students to receive extra support in reading and science.
 - A one-on-one Tutoring/Homework program is provided for students, accompanied by parents, to support improvement in academic and study skills.
 - Along with the core subjects of language arts, math, social studies and science, English language development is provided for all students in need of support to increase English skills.
 - Lower class size, 20:1, is provided at all grade levels.
 - RIF; a reading incentive program offers a challenge to students to become readers and to enjoy reading. Students win a variety of literacy-oriented prizes for reading books on their own time.
 - Our At-Home Reading program runs school-wide with a culminating reading banquet with a presentation of certificates and special prizes for most minutes read.
 - Strong community partnerships with the Neighborhood Association, Police Athletic League, the City of Redwood City, the County of San Mateo, Hidden Villa, New Hope Church, Verbo, Echale, Canada College, Sequoia Adult School and other community-based organizations support our work as
- a Community School with Community Schools and meet the needs and desires of our community.
 - Parent involvement is facilitated, encouraged and supported through our Parent Liaison. Parents are actively involved in the Community School Task Force, ELAC, District/School Liaison Team, Coffee with the Principal, special events and classroom support.
 - Two wonderful community events are especially exciting and bring us everyone together: our Winter Festival and our Community Fair.
 - To promote student leadership, students have the opportunity to serve on our Peace Patrol and Student Council.
 - Enrichment opportunities are offered through: Art in Action, Science Lab, Garden Club, Recycling Club and other classroom clubs and activities.
 - With a fully-equipped library and a full-time librarian, all classrooms visit on a weekly basis and are provided with instruction in library skills and literary works. Our library remains open after school hours, 2 days a week, to allow our families access to the library.
 - Each classroom is equipped with 4-5 computers and a printer. All computers are networked. The computer lab is used as a teaching lab and has state-of-the-art computers and multimedia available.
 - Taft Community School offers 2 after school programs. Each program is slightly different, but between the two programs, students are offered: academic intervention, homework support, science enrichment, life skills and recreation activities.

You are welcome at any time to come and visit. Taft Community School is a great place to be!