

S.P.A.R.C. Support Personnel Accountability Report Card 2005-2006

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

Vacaville High School



Address: 100 W. Monte Vista Vacaville, CA 95688 **Website:** <http://www.vacahigh.org>

District: Vacaville Unified School District **Phone:** (707) 453-6000 **Enrollment:** 1,980

School Year: Traditional **Grade Levels:** 9-12 **Principal:** Dr. Kari Gibson/Fisher

Principal's Comments

It is with great pleasure that I submit the Vacaville High School (VHS) SPARC for 2005-2006. The greatest goal of our district and school is to graduate 100% of our students. The VHS Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) is a critical part of our efforts to achieve that lofty ambition. The team believes that all students can learn, and that they learn best in a safe, healthy, respectful environment. Your SSPT is committed to creating an atmosphere that fosters academic success, career development opportunities and personal/social growth by delivering a student-centered program of support based upon the National Standards for American School Counseling Programs. We will proudly incorporate this SPARC into our School Improvement Plan.

Student Support Personnel Team

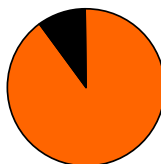
Student support at Vacaville High School is a collaborative effort. Your SSPT consists of more than thirty individuals. This diverse group is united in its goal to create and implement a support system that assists *all* students in their efforts to reach their full potential. The team boasts more than 475 years of accumulated educational experience. Certificated team members hold credentials and degrees (in many cases, advanced degrees) appropriate to the professional duties they perform; classified members receive training consistent with their job functions. Your school counselors assist in the design, coordination, implementation and evaluation of an equitable student support system.

| Team Members | Educational Exp. | Team members | Educational Exp. | Team Members | Educational Exp. |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Principal | 16 years | Speech Therapist (.2) | 9 years | Youth Services Police Officer | 1 year |
| Assistant Principals (2) | 40 years | Work Ex. Coordinator | 28 years | Campus Supervisors (5) | 83 years |
| Dean of Learning Support | 20 years | Link Crew Coordinator | 12 years | Counseling Secretaries (2) | 24 years |
| Counselors (3.5) | 79 years | Activities Director | 6 years | Registrar | 27 years |
| School Nurse | 17 years | Master Social Worker | 8 years | Attendance Clerk | 9 years |
| School Psychologist | 2 years | Counseling Interns (4) | 2 years | Career Center Technician | 7 years |
| Clerical Assistants (2) | 27 years | Bilingual/Migrant Ed. (3.2) | 67 years | | |

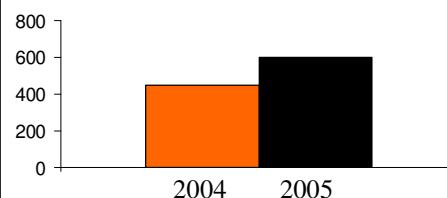
School Climate and Safety

Your SSPT is committed to fostering an academically challenging environment that is safe, secure and welcoming. Our most recent Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation noted, as an area of strength, "a positive atmosphere on campus created by staff and students who genuinely respect and like each other." Before the school year begins, all incoming freshmen are linked with trained upper-class mentors (Link Crew Leaders) who orient their "links" to our Bulldog culture and assist them in the transition from middle school to high school. Later in the year, students have the opportunity to participate in Breaking Down the Walls (BDTW), a powerful program that creates an environment conducive to self-reflection, conflict resolution and community building. In addition, team members work closely with the Vacaville Police Department, Youth Round Table and the Youth Takin' on Tobacco and Other Drugs (YTOT) peer education program to enhance and complement our school programs. Our comprehensive School Safety Plan outlines procedures and policies for assuring the safety of all students. Student Support Personnel Team members were instrumental in the creation of the School Safety Plan, and they update the document yearly. The plan is reviewed by the School Safety Committee and is submitted to the Board of Education for adoption.

90% Freshmen Participation in Link Crew Orientation (2005)



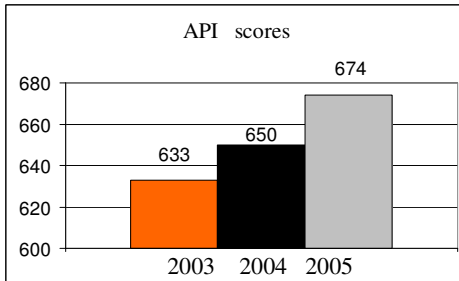
Number of students participating in "Breaking Down The Walls"



Student Results

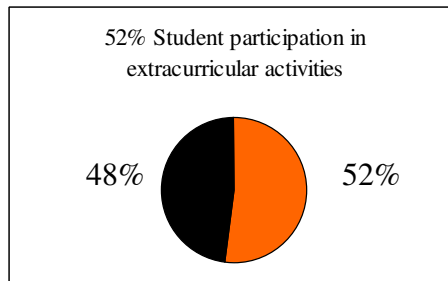
Your SSPT strives to ensure that all students have the opportunity to attain their academic, personal and career goals as outlined in the National Standards for American School Counseling Programs. The quality of our program is determined, in part, by the team's analysis of data and student performance results. The efforts of your SSPT positively impact student results.

Academic Domain



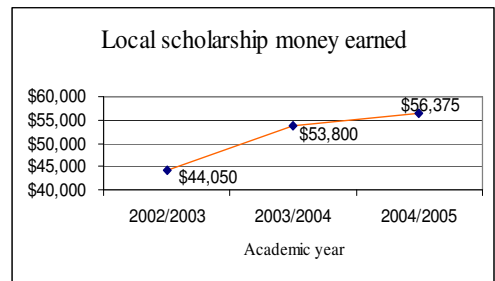
Counselors directly contribute to increases in Academic Performance Index (API) scores by appropriately placing students, monitoring their progress, conferencing with struggling students and intervening when appropriate.

Personal/Social Domain



Team members actively promote participation in extracurricular activities and in many cases recruit participants and serve as advisors/coaches for these groups.

Career Domain



Counselors disseminate information through classroom presentations and assist students in their efforts to acquire local, state and federal scholarships and/or financial assistance.

Major Achievements

Your Vacaville High School SSPT is proud of its efforts to design and implement programs to support student success. Some selected major achievements with which your team played an essential role include:

- Yearlong Career/College Fair**- weekly college and career presentations occur in our Career Center
- Career Center Website**- newly created site includes links to colleges, career guidance, labor laws, vocational and trade schools, military options, financial aid/scholarships, test preparation and job placement
- Link Crew Program**- trains and utilizes more than 100 student mentors to orient and transition freshmen into VHS
- STAR Committee**- motivates students to succeed on STAR exams through its "STAR Countdown" and STAR assemblies
- New Administrative Position**- Dean of Learning Support focuses attention on barriers to student success
- S.P.A.R.C.**- your SSPT publishes its first SPARC

Measurements

Your SSPT utilizes a variety of assessment tools, survey results and other measurements to determine the needs and interests of our students in the academic, career and personal/social domains. These measurements assist the team in evaluating, managing and customizing our support efforts for the benefit of Vacaville High School students.

ACADEMIC:

- College Entrance Examinations (PSAT/SAT/ACT)/Advanced Placement Tests (AP)**- These tests for four-year college bound students are critical to our college counseling program.
- CELDT (California English Language Development Test)**- This assessment helps determine the appropriate placement for students with limited English skills.
- Special Education Assessments**- The school psychologist coordinates a series of assessments leading to the development of Individualized Educational Plans for students with special needs.
- California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)**- Passage of this test, administered to the sophomore class, is required for graduation. Test results are used to guide our efforts at program improvement.
- Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR)**- This test is administered to grades nine through eleven. The data generated from this exam (along with data from the CAHSEE) is disaggregated and used to determine appropriate student placement and/or the need for academic intervention.

CAREER:

- 🐾 **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)**- Students considering both military and non-military careers receive valuable interest and aptitude information.
- 🐾 **COIN 3**- This computer-based assessment generates useful career and occupational information.
- 🐾 **Senior Exit Survey**- This survey collects data regarding college and career plans of graduating students. Information about student perceptions of their preparedness for the future is also collected and analyzed.

PERSONAL/SOCIAL:

- 🐾 **California Healthy Kids Survey**- This survey assesses a variety of personal and social issues for our ninth and eleventh grade students.
- 🐾 **Health Screenings**- School nurses conduct health screenings to identify health barriers to academic success and to provide services and referrals.

Community Partnerships/Resources

It's been said that "It takes a village to raise a child." Your Student Support Personnel Team believes "It takes a community to educate a student." To that end, the team collaborates and partners with a variety of individuals, organizations and agencies in our local community and beyond in our efforts to provide a well-rounded support program to all students.

ACADEMIC:

- Vacaville Public Education Foundation (VPEF)
- Vacaville Chamber of Commerce
- University of California, Davis Education Talent Search
- SUCCESS College Advisement Program
- Career Speakers

- California State University, Sacramento Academic Talent Search
- Solano Community College
- Migrant Education
- SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area)

CAREER:

- Workability
- Regional Occupational Program (ROP)
- Genentech Corporation
- Armed Services
- Work Experience
- Technical and Trade School Representatives

PERSONAL/SOCIAL

- Youth Services Unit of the Vacaville Police Department
- Youth Round Table
- YTOT
- Child Protective Services
- Vacaville Police Department
- ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs) Committee
- SARB (School Attendance Review Board)
- Boomerang Project (Link Crew)
- Living for Learning (Breaking Down the Walls)
- City of Vacaville Community Services Dept.
- Rotary Club/Kiwanis/Soroptomists

Volunteer Involvement

Your SSPT welcomes volunteer participation in making a difference for all students. Volunteers provide important support resources and services to the Vacaville High School student body. Community members are enthusiastically encouraged to contact the following organizations/individuals regarding volunteer opportunities:

- 🐾 **PTC (Parent Teacher Committee)** - This group organizes, among other things, our annual College Experience Day program in which recent VHS graduates share insights with current students. Contact: Kim Ashcraft, 447-5070
- 🐾 **Grad Nite**- A safe and sober all-night celebration for seniors is the focus of this organization. Contact: Lisa Watkins, 446-6596, lwatkins@2006sbcglobal.net
- 🐾 **Freshman Parent Orientation**- While freshmen enjoy the Link Crew experience, volunteers organize this orientation program for their parents. Contact: Ann Stoltz, 453-0816, astoltzrn@aol.com or Debbie McGuire, 446-1594
- 🐾 **Career Speakers**- Our year-long career fair depends on community volunteers to share information on prospective job opportunities. Contact: Kim McCarl or Anita Kelly, 453-6000 extension 1034, kimm@vacavilleusd.org

Focus on Improvement

The SSPT is strongly committed to continuous improvement in order to maximize the efficacy of student support services. After analysis of achievement data and community feedback, two primary goals for the 2005/2006 academic year have been identified and prioritized consistent with the School Improvement Plan:

1. The SSPT will create and administer an improved senior exit survey to obtain data to guide future efforts to expand support services.
2. The SSPT will develop and implement strategies to increase the percentage of students who successfully complete course requirements from the UC/CSU a through g list in an effort to increase the percentage of graduating seniors eligible for the UC/CSU systems.

Keeping you Informed

The VHS Student Support Personnel Team is committed to ongoing communication with the entire school community. Your team uses a variety of methods to keep you informed. Efforts are made to provide Spanish language translation in a variety of media.

Print:

- The Bullhorn (school newsletter)
- Daily Bulletin (also available online)
- Progress and grade reports
- Variety of mailings regarding programs
- Course catalog
- Attendance and behavior contracts
- Scholarship bulletins
- Test result reports

Personal:

- Parent Conferences
- 9th Grade Parent Night
- 8th Grade Parent Night
- Specialized meetings
 - Site intervention meetings
 - Individual Education Plans
 - Student Study Teams/504
- SARB
- Link Crew Orientation
- Freshman Parent Orientation
- Front office staff available from 6:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
- Student/Parent/Counselor meetings
- Back to School Night

Electronic:

- School Website (www.vacahigh.org)
- Electronic Marquee
- Staff voicemail
- Staff email
- Auto-phone messages
- Telephone communications (453-6000)
- Fax (447-5604)



This SPARC is proudly shared with faculty, administration and the governing board of the Vacaville Unified School District.

