

2007-08



## Foothills Middle School

171 East Sycamore, Arcadia, CA 91006  
(626) 821-8363 · Fax (626) 303-7983 · [www.ausd.net/foothills](http://www.ausd.net/foothills)

DISTRICT: Arcadia Unified ENROLLMENT: 860  
GRADE LEVELS: 6-8 SCHOOL YEAR: Traditional  
PRINCIPAL: Tricia Hartline



### Support Personnel Accountability Report Card (SPARC)

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

### Principal's Comments

Foothills Middle School (FMS) provides a supportive, nurturing, positive environment to promote the growth and development of its students. The Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) plays a vital role in this mission, and, in accordance with the National Standards for School Counseling, provides exceptional service in the Personal/Social, Academic, and Career/College domains. The implementation of AB 1802 has added counseling hours that are being used effectively to deliver additional services to FMS students. These added services include conferences with high risk seventh graders and their parents, career and college presentations to all seventh and eighth grade students, implementation of a "College Corner" in the library, and district adoption of a "Bridge" program that has middle school counselors working two days per week at Arcadia High School to help eighth graders make a smoother transition to ninth grade. The critical work of the SSPT benefits all students in the areas of student learning, accountability, academic success, safety, and "connectedness" to the school.

### Student Support Personnel Team

Foothills Middle School students are served by a comprehensive and cohesive Student Support Personnel Team dedicated to their personal/social, academic, and career development. Under the direction of the Principal, the two FMS counselors, in collaboration with other educational personnel, design, coordinate, implement and evaluate an equitable student support system that serves all students.

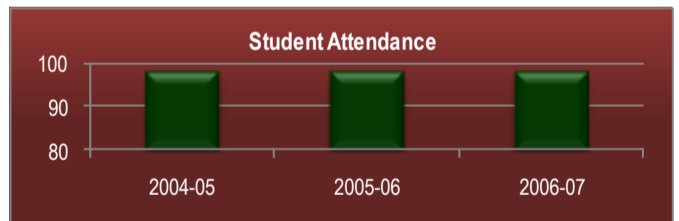
**The SSPT consists of:**

| Team Member                                    | Education/Credentials   |
|--|---|
| Counselors (2)                                 | Masters Degrees; PPS Credentials  |
| Principal                                      | Masters Degree; Administrative, Teaching and Reading Specialist Credentials   |
| Assistant Principal                            | Masters Degree; Administrative and Teaching Credentials   |
| School Psychologists (3)                       | Masters Degrees (all); PPS/School Psychologist Credentials (all); Board Certified Behavior Analyst (2); Licensed Education Psychologist |
| Office Supervisor and Office Assistants (2)    | Various levels of education   |
| Librarian                                      | Community College   |
| Health Services Assistant                      | Bachelors Degree; Licensed Registered Nurse   |
| English Language Development (ELD) Coordinator | Masters Degree; Teaching Credential; ELD Supplemental authorization   |

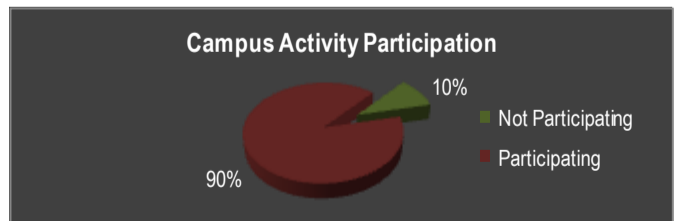
The SSPT collaborates with all academic teaching staff and parent support groups. The SSPT organizes intervention programs for academic success, including those designed to address a variety of contributing concerns: discipline, attendance, homework, peer problems, and lack of academic support at home. The SSPT coordinates Student Study Teams (SST) and participates in Individual Educational Plans (IEP) and Section 504 Plans. Members of the SSPT have over 250 years of combined educational experience; all certificated members belong to various professional organizations including the California Association for School Counselors, the American School Counselor Association, and the American Board of School Neuropsychology. The SSPT members serve on school leadership teams and attend conferences to keep abreast of current professional practices.

### School Climate and Safety

The SSPT is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all students. Counselors and other SSPT members maintain an "open door" policy for students, parents, and teachers, so that any school safety concerns are brought immediately to their attention. SSPT members also monitor the school safety hotline and utilize a comprehensive discipline and attendance program which includes the Student Attendance Review Team and the Student Attendance Review Board. In addition, SSPT members supervise students at lunch which provides an opportunity to see students on an informal basis and contributes to a positive school climate. The SSPT also plays a significant role in advising the peer helping group, HELP Club, on campus. Select eighth grade students deliver peer mediation services, organize diversity events such as Mix It Up Day, and network with the entire sixth grade to make sure students' transition to middle school is a smooth one. The SSPT participates in the delivery of the Health curriculum by presenting topics such as bullying and media violence. The SSPT is instrumental in encouraging student participation in campus activities to ensure connectedness to the FMS community. The SSPT demonstrates a strong relationship to the overall climate and safety at FMS.



Over the last three years, student attendance rate has remained consistently high due to the interventions provided by the SSPT.



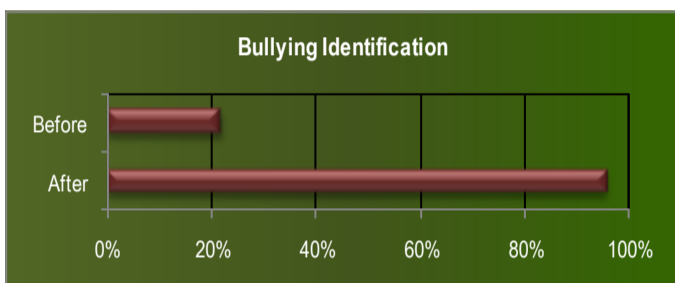
The SSPT encourages all students to take part in one or more activities on the FMS campus. Students have the opportunity to participate in clubs, team sports, dances, student government, peer tutoring, drill team, marching band and orchestra. The high rate of student participation demonstrates the positive climate and level of connectedness of the students to the school environment.

## Student Results

The SSPT recognizes that analyzing student results is a necessary component of a successful counseling program based on the National Standards for School Counseling. Results data gathered during the school year is used to both validate program effectiveness as well as evaluate for program adjustment. Examples of successful student results in the personal/social, academic, and career/college counseling domains are indicated below:

### Personal/Social Development

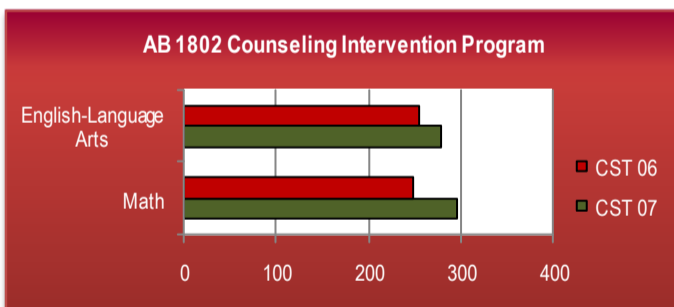
*Standard PS:A1.6: Students will distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors.*



As a result of counselor presentations to health classes, eighth grade students are able to identify the three different categories of bullying. Appropriate identification will enable students to recognize and change their own behavior as well as be able to report inappropriate behavior by others.

### Academic Development

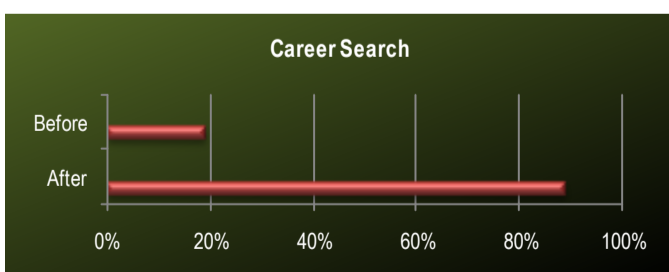
*Standard A:A2.2 Students will demonstrate how effort and persistence positively effect learning.*



A significant increase in the average CST scores was demonstrated after seventh grade students received AB 1802 counseling.

### Career/College Development

*Standard CA1.1: Students will develop skills to locate, evaluate, and interpret career information.*



Seventh grade students were able to conduct a career search relevant to their interests and skills following counselor-led class lessons using the CX Online career and college search program.

## Keeping You Informed

Foothills Middle School is committed to keeping the school community informed. A copy of the SPARC will be distributed to Foothills Middle School staff and parents, as well as to the governing board and district office personnel. The Student Support Personnel Team at Foothills keeps students, parents, and the school district up-to-date with information through a variety of media, including the following:

### Electronic Contact

- Parent/Teacher/Counselor E-mail
- Parent/Teacher/Counselor Telephone Communication
- Website: [www.ausd.net/foothills](http://www.ausd.net/foothills)
- Email Group (List serve to over 1,800 contacts)
- Daily Attendance Calls as necessary
- Morning Announcements made daily by students
- Phone Blaster (Automated announcements to FMS families)

### Printed Materials

- PTSA Newsletter (approximately 750 families, four times per year)
- Letters and flyers to parents and students
- Student Bulletins
- Grade and Progress reports
- Student/Parent Handbook
- Marquee and Bulletin Boards
- The Highlander (Student produced newspaper)
- College Corner
- Communications provided in Spanish and Mandarin upon request

### Personal Contact

- Parent/Student/Counselor individual meetings (Translators available as needed)
- Student Study Team meetings, Individual Education Plan meetings, Section 504 meetings
- Student Group meetings and assemblies
- PTSA meetings
- School Site Leadership Team and School Site Council meetings
- Parent evening meetings
- Staff meetings
- Back-to-School Night and Open House

### Resource Locations

- After School Free Peer Tutoring available Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:45-3:40pm in the FMS Library
- Office Hours (open daily 7:30am—4:00pm)

