GRADING FOR EQUITY

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OUR MISSION

The 23-24 SAC Grading for Equity team strives to spread awareness about the grading systems of each respective school to enact change and hopefully persuade current board members to implement new systems.

We believe that the first step to school change is addressing and confronting the problem within itself. Especially from a student perspective, it's important to hear all sides, for all schools.

OVERVIEW

01 Jefferson

02 Oceana

03 Westmoor

04 Terra Nova

05 Solutions

JEFFERSON HIGH

- Jefferson has a 4 by 4 schedule system. We take 4 classes from August to December and 4 from January to may.

- This benefits students to balance their classes and it also allows students to get more credits by taking 8 classes per year.

- Flex time on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week, this benefits students to connect with their teachers and improve their grades.



JEFFERSON HIGH

- Jefferson has a big Hispanic/Latino community and language barriers are one of the biggest challenges that the students face.

- The grading methodology may vary depending on the teacher, certain educators allow students to improve their grades with re-takes, whereas other may not offer such opportunities for grade improvement.



JEFFERSON HIGH

Ways our grading can improve:

- Having different types of assessment in classes, some students may be able to have a better understanding of the topics by using different methods such as quizzes, presentations, group projects, etc.
- All teachers have a rubric set up for each assessment and utilize it as the guideline to grade.
- Improve teachers communication with students, more specifically with the ESL student community.



OCEANA'S STRENGTHS

- Diverse backgrounds of staff, giving many students a chance to resonate with knowledgeable figures
- Academic Council student representatives communicate regularly with teacher representatives to discuss school-wide grading systems
- 9/10 houses prevent burnout and encourage bonding between classmates
    - Teachers lay out easily comprehensible rubric and grading structures for the freshman-sophomore transition
- Revisions are accessible to every student and highly encouraged





OCEANA- STEPS TO IMPROVE

While Oceana does a great job at matching our district's goal of providing equitable education to all students, we find there are still areas of improvement.

We would like:

- To offer grading standards/accommodations based on personal situations.
- Open dialogue between students and teachers regarding grading, syllabi, and rubrics.
- A universal understanding of what is expected of individual students in each course, between educators and families.





WESTMOOR HIGH

One of the main problems at our school is that the course difficulty varies drastically depending on the teacher.

- This causes a lack of interests from students toward wanting to challenge themselves in a more academically rigorous course.
- It also causes grades to not accurately reflect the student's abilities/ or it will provide an inaccurate representation of the student's knowledge of the subject.





WESTMOOR HIGH

Ways we can solve this problem:

- provide a standard course rubric for each class/subject
- encourage teachers who are teaching the same course to plan with each other so that their grading and workload are similar
- make a universal process for students if their grades are slipping or if they would like extra support
    - our school plans to change our bell schedule next year, so we hope that flex time will help provide students with the extra support they need



WESTMOOR HIGH

Flex Time vs. Traditional 1-6

- Our new flex time schedule allows students to take more classes
- It also provides students the ability to receive 1 on 1 support from their teachers
- Our previous traditional 1-6 schedule was often overwhelming for students and provided no opportunities for student support
- We plan on making the transition from traditional to flex easier by incorporating workshops and orientation seminars.



TERRA NOVA HIGH

- Standards Based vs. Traditional Grading
  - Differing Workloads
  - Inequitable for students
- `Differences between separate departments
  - Differing course loads

TERRA NOVA HIGH SOLUTIONS

- Student-Staff and Staff-Staff Collaborations
  - WASC
  - Allow more retakes
  - Allow more flexibility with time
    - Due date forgiveness or at least the ability to receive lower credit
- Flex Times
  - Time for students to catch up

OVERALL SOLUTIONS

- Coordinate outreach towards struggling students to understand how the school can adapt to help them succeed
  - Admin soft-contacting families
  - How students & grading systems can both adapt for best grade-related outcomes
- Increase communication between teachers, students, and families
  - Clarification of rubrics, review of course syllabi, etc.
- Offer assistance with overcoming language barriers
  - Request for translators when necessary
- Set levels of course standardization between teachers of the same subject
  - Strive to make all student experiences similar
  - Still leave room for each teacher to provide unique learning experiences

THANK YOU!


JEFFERSON UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATING OUR YOUTH AND ADULTS
ESTABLISHED 1922

Improvements To Wellness

Alaia Aulachong, Nathalia Alvarado, Summer Simpson, Charlotte Tsang

01 School Insight





Mental Health

What is Mental Health?

Mental health impacts our emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing. It can affect the way we feel, think, and act. It can determine how we handle stress, academics, relationships with others, and making healthy choices.

Why is Mental health important for High School students?

Student's academic success can be impacted by one's mental health, especially regarding internal and external factors. It is easier to access education when our resources are met.

Jefferson High School

Resources:

The beach - a space for all students to come and regulate their nervous system, they should ask permission from their teacher and they are welcome to stay for 15 minutes.



Mindfulness room - used for mental health groups, grief, Latinx newcomers, filipinxs, body image, stress management, and cloth donation



Wellness resource wall - students have access to community resources if needed, they are continues resources that students ask the most for.



LGBTQIA+ wall- resources specifically for the LGBTQIA+ population so they feel supported and included.



Wellness Team



- ★ Ms. Marcela (Social Worker)
- ★ Ms. Hapa (Wellness Counselor)
- ★ Mr. Adraneda (Wellness Counselor)









Specific problem:

- Issues with teachers when going with counselors
- Big Hispanic/Latino population and only one Spanish Speaker Wellness counselor

Oceana High School

OVERVIEW

- 4 Counselors In Total:
  - Alyssa Owyang (School)
  - Patty Holahan (School)
  - Jeanette Herbert (Wellness)
  - Liberty Cajayon (Social Worker)

- many ways to sign up
  - ask teacher
  - wellness form
  - walk-in

- “Chill Room” available

SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

- working with freshman

- utilizing flex time effectively

- no official wellness center

- getting students to reach out



Terra Nova High School

Terra Nova offers a variety of wellness services as well as people to speak with such as;

- Mrs. Mika (wellness counselor)
- Mr. Marsh (wellness counselor + social worker)
- Peer Helpers
- Women's wellness group
- Flexing with wellness
- Sex ed squad
- Daly City Youth Health Center

Terra Novas wellness accessibility is very easy to access to all however there are a few hiccups. Terra Nova makes sure that starting freshman year the Daly City Youth Health Center spends two weeks educating are freshman health class. Also peer helpers hold multiple events throughout the year to promote the accessibility to reach one. However, Terra Nova doesn't always keep reaching out confidential. For instance QR codes are posted publicly in very obvious/busy locations at our school. Also when it comes to reaching out to a counselor at times you need to wait multiple days to get an appointment.

Westmoor High School

OVERVIEW

Westmoor has a variety of wellness services, including:

- Wellness Team comprising of 2 wellness counselors and 1 social worker
- Peer Assistance - a class designed for trained students to mediate conflicts between other students in a confidential situation
- BC2M - Club that puts an emphasis on mental health awareness
- Wellness Room - a room where students can take a 15 minute break to retain calmness
- Students fill in forms to make an appointment with their counselor

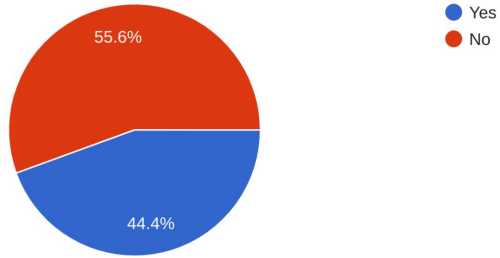
SPECIFIC ISSUES

- Not a lot of students feel entirely comfortable with expressing their feelings to counselors due to gender preferences and negative feedback
- Wait time for meeting counselors are too long, takes 2-3 days to get in contact with

02 District Statistics

Statistics

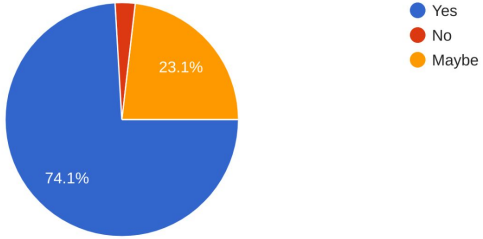
Have you ever visited a wellness counselor on campus?
108 responses



Student ideas when it comes to adding more wellness on JUHSD campus:

- Wellness rooms or having longer breaks would be helpful when students are overwhelmed with school (specially during finals)
- Giving students a place they can go when feeling extremely stressed or upset. (Currently many feel like an uphill battle fighting attendance, teachers, and absences just to have a space to relax for awhile.)

Do you feel like wellness resources are accessible? (Wellness counselors, wellness rooms, peer mediators/helpers)
108 responses



Overall Problems



No Awareness

Many students are unaware of resources and counselor abilities they have access to



Student Motivation

Students are burn out and unlikely to reach out themselves



Going to Counselor

Students have a hard time relating to counselors and find it easier to speak to peers

Overall Solutions

Destigmatizing Wellness Culture

- More opportunities for teachers and staff to bond with students, such as proper scheduled advisory meetings on a regular basis



Better Teacher and Environment Quality

- Teachers get burnt out too so implementing destress activities for teachers at the midway of the year would be very helpful, since our teacher's attitudes influences students behaviors
- Having sessions where teachers learn to be more understanding and flexible with student
- Put in breeze plug-ins for the school to have a refreshing scent

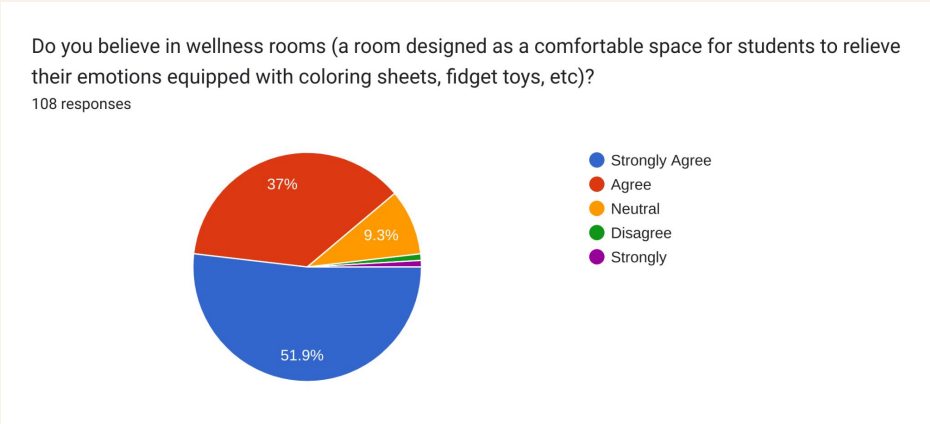
Wellness Rooms

Purpose

- Easy access for a quiet place
- A safe place to recharge social batteries during school
- Fidget toys to destress your mind

Design

- An empty classroom in a genuinely popular area
- Low maintenance room with snacks and fidgets that are safe for all





Questions?

Environmental Sustainability

By Caterina, Dante, Eden, and Juliana



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8.3 BILLION TONS

Of plastic has been produced in the U.S since the 1950’s

14 Million Tons

Of plastic ends up in our oceans

95%

Of Americans say they are concerned about the amount of plastic/waste on our planet

91%

Of Americans consider the amount of plastic in a product when making a purchase

What can our school district to do reduce waste, promote sustainability, and contribute to a greener planet?

3 Areas of Growth

3 Areas of Growth

School Lunches

3 Areas of Growth

School Lunches

Waste

3 Areas of Growth

School Lunches

Waste

Paper use

School Lunches

- School lunch is typically served in or with plastic
- Most products have a single-use plastic wrapper
  - Ex. All sandwiches are wrapped in plaster and served on a plastic or paper tray
- All utensils are plastic

Potential Solutions/Ideas

- Invest in wooden utensils
- Order more products without plastic wrapping
  - Ex. soup, paper trays, pizza
- Promote the use of salad bars!

Trash Bins

- Trash bins typically all get thrown together without sorting
- All “trash” goes to landfill, regardless of if it’s compostable or recyclable
- Lack of awareness around where students should put their trash
- Many classes don't have recycling bins, despite using many recyclable pieces of paper

Potential Solutions/Ideas

- Incorporate clearly labeled recycling bins in all classrooms
- Add liquid waste bins so it’s less likely for students to “contaminate” other waste bins.
- Be more straightforward with what items belong in what bins.

Paper Use

- Paper use within classrooms is becoming more and more of a issue
- Single use handouts get thrown away immediately after lessons when they can be used as scratch paper or recycled for another purpose.
- Informational packets are handed out when they could be online using PDFs or Google Docs.

Potential Solutions/Ideas

- Digitalize informational handouts
- Turn in assignments online
- Recycle old handouts as scratch paper

“We don’t have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.” – Howard Zinn

Thanks!

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Questions?