



Valhalla High School

Support Personnel Accountability Report Card



Two Thousand Ten

A continuous improvement document sponsored by the California Career Resource Network and the Los Angeles County Office of Education

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – *Mary Beth Kastan*

The Valhalla High School (VHS) Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) plays a vital role in enhancing school safety, ensuring academic success, and developing social/emotional maturity in students as stated in our school's mission and the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). Therefore, I strongly support the implementation of the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) National Standards for School Counselors. With assistance from the SSPT, counselors provide guidance curriculum, individual and group counseling, parent/student evening seminars, and preparation for post-secondary choices. Our improvement goals for 2008-2009 were to increase the number of freshman creating four-year and post-secondary plans with counselors and to enhance the applicability of our career center. Both goals have been met. Our **focus for improvement goals** this year are to increase materials going out to parents in their native languages and for the counseling department to meet as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to create systematic interventions to improve student achievement. It is a pleasure to work with Valhalla High School's SSPT and they are commended for their dedication in playing a crucial role in cultivating academic success, ensuring school safety, and helping prepare our students for the future.

STUDENT SUPPORT PERSONNEL TEAM

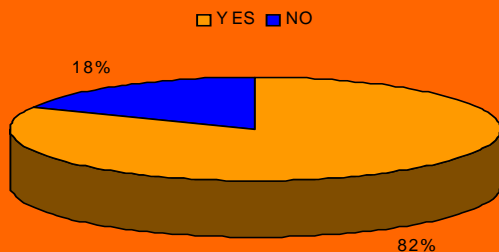
Valhalla High School's SSPT consists of counselors, academic advisors, administrators, and other staff members (*see chart on the right*). Through collaboration, counselors **design, implement, coordinate, and advocate for equitable student support services**. Counselor caseloads are by grade level. An additional counselor services all English Language Learners and students on an Individualized Education Plan. All certificated team members hold appropriate credentials which meet NCLB guidelines for highly qualified staff. In addition, all members of the SSPT belong to professional organizations within their disciplines (e.g., American School Counselor Association, San Diego County Association for Counseling and Development, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and Association of California School Administrators).

SCHOOL CLIMATE AND SAFETY

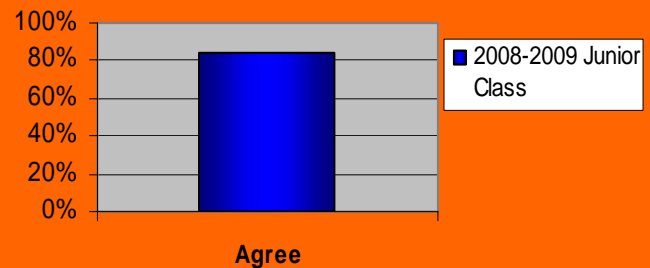
A strong connection between the SSPT and school climate and safety allows us to provide the maximum amount of support to all students at Valhalla High School. **The SSPT believes in providing a safe and secure environment for all students by offering resources and services on and off campus.** The following programs help bridge student-to-school connectedness and strengthen school climate and safety: Peer Mediation, Valhalla Mentorship Program, Friday Night Live, support groups, individual crisis intervention, peer tutoring, Thor's Tours, Freshman Preview Day, and Interquest. SSPT members have all been assigned roles and participated in drills corresponding to the updated school safety plan that has been reviewed by the district's Board of Education.

| CERTIFICATED STAFF / EDUCATION | EXPERIENCE |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Principal (MS) | 21 years |
| 3 Assistant Principals (MA) | 54 years |
| 5 Counselors (MA/MS, PPS) | 57 years |
| 1 School Psychologist (MA) | 21 years |
| CLASSIFIED STAFF | EXPERIENCE |
| 2 Academic Advisors | 22 years |
| 1 School Site Technician | 13 years |
| 4 Secretaries | 43 years |
| 1 LVN – Site Nurse | 10 years |
| 2 Attendance Clerks | 9 years |
| 1 Receptionist | 29 years |
| 5 Campus Supervisors | 26 years |
| COMMUNITY SUPPORT | EXPERIENCE |
| 1 School Resource Officer | 10 years |

Do You Feel Safe at Valhalla?



Do I feel the adults at VHS care that I do my best?



The majority of 9th grade students agreed that "yes" they feel safe at VHS. Fall 2008 Healthy Kids survey.

As reported in the Fall 2008 Healthy Kids Survey, 84% of 11th grade students agree that adults on campus always want them to do their best.

STUDENT RESULTS

Student results are a vital component of the accountability system for our program. They are based on the goals and student competencies adopted from the National Standards for School Counseling Programs. In order to better serve the whole student, the SSPT has made a strong commitment to the collection and analysis of student data. This information is important for evaluating progress, implementing new programs, making changes to existing programs, and deleting ineffective programs.

Academic Domain, Standard A: *Students will complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options including college.*

In 2009, VHS improved its Academic Performance Index (API) score by 21 points over the adjusted 2008 score and 61 points over the adjusted 2007 score (see Figure 1). Our goal is to reach 840 API in the 2010 school year—putting us in the top eight in the County. This improvement is in part related to the various programs and services provided by the SSPT, including AB1802 meetings with at-risk 9th-12th grade students and their parents, referral for intervention classes and tutorial sessions, and offering strategies for academic success. Counselors at VHS also meet with students during the spring semester to discuss their transcripts and previous years' California Standardized Testing scores to stress the importance of students working up to their ability level and challenging themselves to improve their scores for the following year.

Figure 1

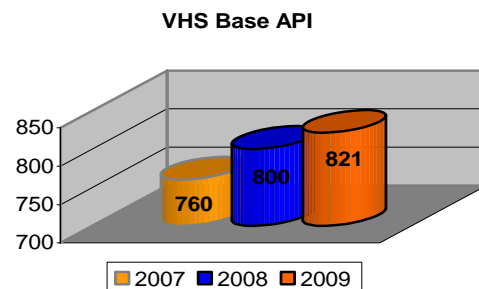
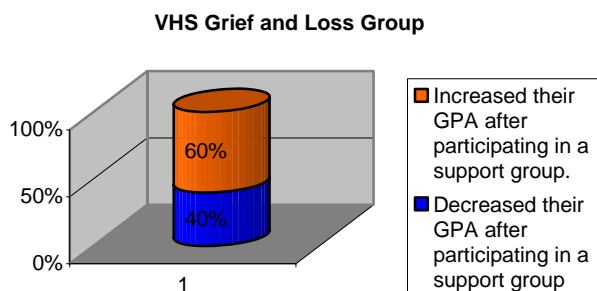


Figure 2



Personal/Social Domain, Standard A: *Students acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.*

The SSPT strives to provide personal and developmental support for our students and assists them with acquiring self-knowledge and interpersonal skills through a variety of Personal/Social Programs available on campus. Students who participate in the Grief and Loss Support Group are referred by administrators, counselors, teachers, campus supervisors, and their peers. It is the goal of the Grief and Loss Support Group to strengthen important life skills that enhance a student's ability to succeed academically and socially as well as learn coping skills to assist with emotional or stressful situations. VHS counselors facilitated a 6-week Grief and Loss Group in fall 2009. As a result, 60% of group members increased their GPA over the six-week period (see Figure 2).

Career Domain, Standard C: *Students will understand the relationship between personal qualities, education, training, and the world of work.*

The Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD) and VHS work collaboratively to provide opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to achieve their college and career goals. Last year, a district-wide initiative for post-secondary planning was adopted. VHS counselors utilize COIN Career Community (COIN3) as part of a 4-year guidance curriculum that results in a post-secondary plan (PSP) for every student. A culminating activity of students' post-secondary planning is an individual conference to finalize their plans. VHS counselors surveyed a random sampling of students from the class of 2009. 92% of respondents verified that they were executing their post-secondary plan as developed with their VHS counselor (see Figure 3).

Post-Secondary Plan

92%

Percentage of 2009 seniors who verified that they were executing their PSP as developed with their VHS counselor.



Figure 3

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP/RESOURCES

Our community partnerships and resources are important to our school because they continue to provide our families with financial assistance, continuing education, internships, and employment opportunities. In the personal/social domain, VHS partners with Medi-Cal Outreach, San Diego County Health and Human Services, and the Teen Parent Program. By having outside providers available, our school counselors can provide more services to our students. In the academic domain, VHS partners with the Cal-Soap College Program, University of San Diego, and Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. By partnering with local colleges, we are giving our students an opportunity to connect to additional academic programs, thus increasing the college-going rate and completion of A-G requirements. In the career domain, VHS partners with the following organizations in order to offer students tools to investigate their world of future work: East County Career Center, Got Plans? (a college and career fair), and the East County Regional Occupational Program. With their help we are connecting students to a post-secondary plan. Parents are encouraged to join on-campus organizations like the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) and the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Please contact Cindy Woodson at cwoodson@guhsd.net or 619-593-5300 for more information.