



# West Ranch High School

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FOUNDING PRINCIPAL: Robert Vincent • ENROLLMENT: 2,714 • GRADE LEVELS: 9-12

## 2009-2010 Support Personnel Accountability Report Card (SPARC)

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

### Principal's Message

West Ranch High School is proud to present our first Student Support Accountability Report Card (SPARC). From the school's first year, 2004-2005, West Ranch has held firm to our mission, which states, "West Ranch High School is committed to challenging and motivating each student to achieve excellence and become a responsible and valuable member of our society. Through relationships, rigor, and relevance, West Ranch High School promotes integrity, distinction, and vision." The Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) is dedicated to this mission and to aligning their collaborative efforts with the National Standards For School Counseling. The SSPT is committed to every student and offer a comprehensive counseling and guidance program that focuses on academic, career, and personal development. Every student, in conjunction with their counselors, develops an integrated academic four-year plan that follows district and state guidelines, fulfills college entrance requirements, and provides for career-related technical and practical skills. At each grade level, students are exposed to the opportunities of various careers and connect their learning to career paths. The SSPT encourages students to enter rigorous academic programs such as Honors and Advanced Placement level courses. Failure is not an option for our students. West Ranch has a shared focus of eliminating avenues to and excuses for failure and has developed a number of intervention and support programs for all students. West Ranch was the first school in our district to receive a full six-year accreditation from the 2008 Western Association of School and Colleges Visiting Committee and has adopted school-wide critical areas for follow-up which include:

- Enhance elective offerings
- Focus on the use of data and common assessments for ongoing school improvement
- Increase the proficiency of lower performing students to reduce the achievement gap
- Reduce the numbers of D's and F's while maintaining rigor in the classroom

The West Ranch High School community recognizes the significance of our Student Support Personal Team and is committed to continuous improvement of our school-wide programs.

### Student Support Personnel Team

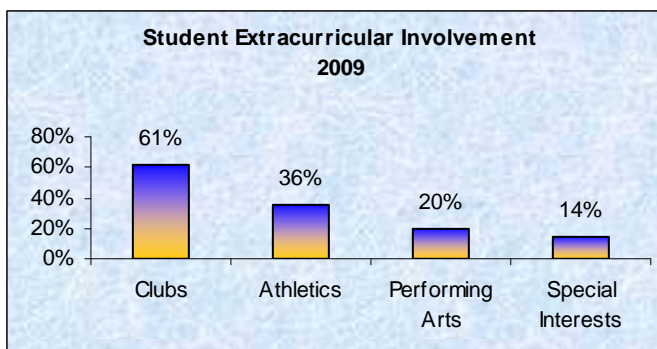
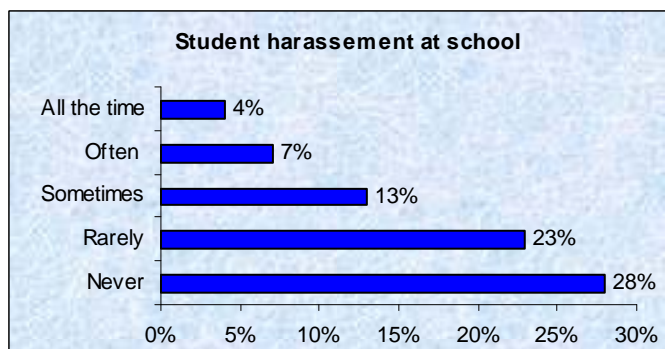
The mission of our SSPT is to ensure that all students at West Ranch High acquire the knowledge, attitude, and skills necessary for their educational, career, and personal development to meet the challenges of the future and to become responsible citizens. The SSPT plays a leadership role in the broader student support system. All SSPT members attend conferences, workshops, school and district meetings to keep abreast of current professional practices and reforms. All certificated members hold appropriate credentials and certifications which meet the No Child Left Behind guidelines for highly qualified staff. Most members belong to a variety of professional organizations including the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and the National Association of School Counselors. Each counselor is a liaison to an academic department and collaborates through monthly meetings. Counselor members organize, coordinate, and lead Student Study Teams, 504 meetings, Individual Education Plans, and support groups. Communication with the entire school community is vital and the counselors meet every week to reflect, evaluate, and ensure effectiveness of programs to support what is best for students.

Team Members	Education/Credentials
Principal	Masters, Administrative, Teaching Credentials
Assistant Principals (4)	Masters, Administrative, Teaching, PPS
Counselors (7)	Masters, PPS,, Teaching, Administrative Credentials, Community College Certificates
School Psychologist	Masters, PPS School Psychology
ASB Director	Masters, Administrative, Teaching Credentials
Athletic Director	Masters, Administrative, Teaching Credentials
Librarian	Masters, PPS, Library Media Teacher Service
School Resource Officer	Sheriff's Academy
Registrars (2)	Various levels of education and certificates
ROP Coordinator	Various levels of education and certificates
Career Advisor	Bachelors of Science, various certificates
Clerical Support (5)	Various levels of education and certificates
School Health Assistant	Bachelors of Science

### School Climate and Safety

The SSPT facilitates activities that are a vital component of the School Safety Plan and has been reviewed by the School Safety Committee and adopted by the district's Board of Education. The SSPT help organize and participate in school-wide programs that promote a positive school climate and contribute to the success of our students. These include:

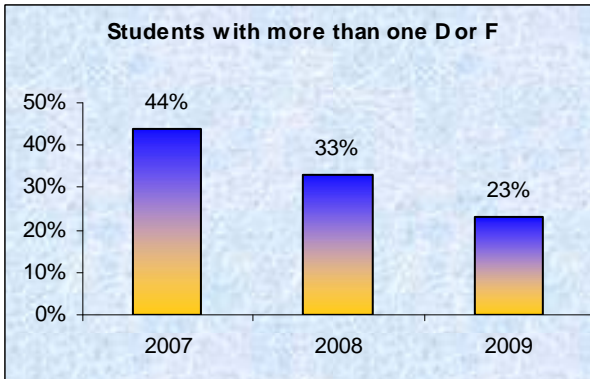
- Collaboration with staff and school resource deputy in our school emergency and safety plans.
- Address the needs of at-risk students by holding parent/student conferences and student counseling services.
- Organize and participate in school-wide activities such as Every 15 Minutes, motivational assemblies, support groups, and clubs that help to promote cultural diversity, tolerance for differences, social awareness, and healthy lifestyles. As a result, students feel accepted and safe on campus based on results from the 2008 WASC student survey (see graph below left).
- Works closely with our Athletic Director and ASB Director to encourage students to become involved in extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs, performing arts, and special interest groups (see graph below right).



## Student Results

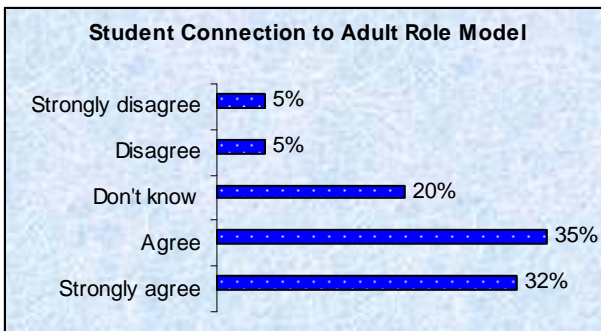
Students at West Ranch receive support for their academic, personal/social and career goals through a variety of counseling services. Guidance programs at WRHS are data driven and demonstrate our commitment to the National Standards for School Counseling. Data from surveys, grades, reports and test results are used to measure student results and guide our programs to ensure that every student is provided with the tools necessary to succeed.

**Academic Standard A:** *Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills that contribute to the effective learning in school and across the life span.*



Students receive academic support through various programs on our campus. One of the goals is to reduce the number of students receiving D's and F's without lowering standards. There is a strong intervention/tutorial program that provides students the opportunity to receive assistance outside of the school day. Students meet every five weeks with their fourth period Advisory teacher to discuss their grades and set academic goals. Specific subject tutorial is available to all students after school. Open Library Night is held twice a week and allows students to work with peer tutors and teachers. In addition, counselors meet with at-risk students every 5-week grading period to discuss grades. Student Study Team meetings with students, teachers and parents are held when needed to discuss academic progress. As a result of our intervention programs, the number of D's and F's has decreased.

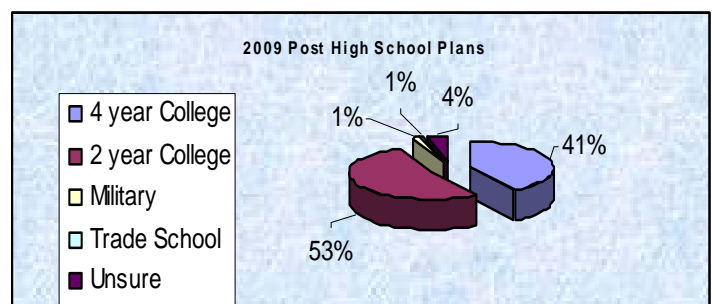
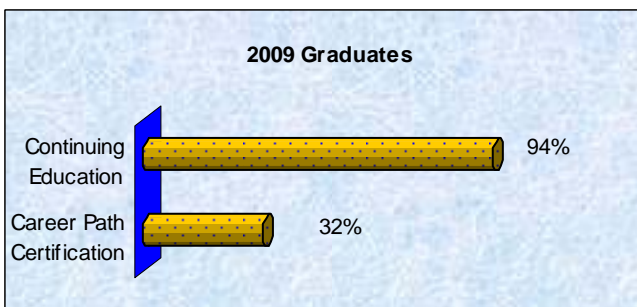
**Personal/Social Standard A:** *Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.*



The SSPT is committed to developing and implementing extensive programs and interventions to ensure social and personal success for all students. Counselors work one on one with all freshmen to develop a 4-year plan that incorporates academic, career, and social goals. In addition, individual and group counseling services are provided to help students manage conflict situations and to cope with personal problems. Staff members target five students to watch each semester in an effort to provide an adult connection with potential at-risk students. Based on data from the 2008 WASC Student Survey, the graph on the left shows the improvements the SSPT is making to ensure students feel connected to an adult on campus.

**Career Development Standard A:** *Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.*

The West Ranch Student Support Personal Support Team is dedicated to providing students the tools and resources necessary to make attainable post-high school plans. The School to Career program gives students the opportunity to participate in a set of activities at every grade level and allows them to focus on their goals beyond high school.: 9<sup>th</sup> grade-Focus: *Who Am I?* 10<sup>th</sup> grade-Focus: *What Are My Interests?* 11<sup>th</sup> grade- Focus: *Where do I Go from Here?* And 12<sup>th</sup> grade- Focus: *How Am I going to get there?* In the 2009 school year, 32% of our graduating seniors completed a Career Path Certificate. In addition, 94% of students continued their education after high school.



## Community Partnership/Resources

The SSPT has developed vital relationships with the community that play an important role for our students at West Ranch. Our community partnerships are essential in developing and providing programs and services that lead to academic, career, and social achievement for all students. A partnership with the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber Education Foundation includes participation in the annual "Principal for a Day" program where business and community leaders have the opportunity to shadow principals. A partnership with Destiny Foundation and motivational speaker Dan Williams, helps students set personal goals develop a plan to achieve their goals. Juniors participate in the Connecting to Success Seminar which is held off campus. At Connecting to Success, students participate in business seminars and learn how to be active members of the business community. Eleventh grade students are required to job shadow a professional in a career of their choice. West Ranch has established a parent-based organization, the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), to connect the school with the community we serve. These relationships have been vital in supporting student involvement in job shadowing experiences, internships, and other career and community related opportunities. The column to the right lists a few of our community members and programs that provide many valued services supporting and enhancing student achievement:

### Academic:

- College of the Canyons (COC)
- University of California Los Angeles (CSUN) Outreach
- California State University Northridge CSUN Outreach
- Santa Clarita Valley Scholarship Foundation
- CSUN Summer Academic Enrichment Program
- Parent Advisory Council Scholarship

### Personal/Social:

- Child and Family Center
- Santa Clarita Valley Youth Project
- City of Santa Clarita Youth Services
- School Attendance Review Board
- School Resource Officer
- ACTION (Parent-Teen Support Groups)

### Career:

- COC Career and Tech Education Collaboration Grant
- Junior Achievement
- Santa Clarita Valley School and Business Alliance
- Regional Occupation Program
- Destiny Foundation
- Valley Industrial Association
- Center for Occupational Research and Development
- Gallup University – Strengthfinder Assessment
- Santa Clarita Dental School
- Le Cordon Bleu (College of Culinary Arts)

To become involved in student support services at West Ranch, please contact Christine Smith, Counseling Secretary (661) 222-1220 ext141/ casmith@hartdistrict.org