

Vacaville High School Safe School Plan 2012-2013

100 West Monte Vista Avenue
Vacaville, CA 95688

Site Safety Committee Members:

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School Site Approval:

February 28, 2013

Vacaville Unified School District
401 Nut Tree Road
Vacaville, CA 95687

SECTION 1: MISSION STATEMENT & OVERVIEW

Mission Statement/Shared Vision

At Vacaville High School learning is our core purpose.

The school's Shared Vision follows.

Vacaville High School is a place:

- where decisions are made only through the lens of improving student achievement,
- that challenges students with rigor and relevance, and supports struggling learners systematically,
- that prepares students for opportunities after high school,
- where staff works with students to develop relationships inside and outside the classroom,
- where people work together as interdependent teams and are accountable for results, and
- that values the pursuit of greatness in everything we do.

Accreditation

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the California Department of Education evaluated the staff, school, and students regarding student learning and school success in the spring of 2010 and provided a one-day update in the fall of 2012. Vacaville High School (VHS) is currently accredited through June 2016. A complete copy of the WASC report is available for viewing in the administrative offices at Vacaville High School.

Overview

Vacaville High School is a comprehensive, four-year high school with an enrollment of approximately 2000 students. Vacaville High School has been in existence for more than 115 years. The tradition of excellence has served the educational needs of the community for many decades. A well-prepared teaching staff of approximately 80 teachers offers a wide variety of curricular and extracurricular offerings. In past years, Vacaville has been named both a California Distinguished High School and a Nationally Recognized High School. Vacaville High School has a long-standing tradition of both athletic and academic excellence. Students have a variety of opportunities to excel in extra and co-curricular areas. The school is located in the city of Vacaville, which is 60 miles northeast of San Francisco and 35 miles southwest of Sacramento.

Ethnicity Profile

The student ethnic background is 55.02% White/Caucasian, 27.3% Hispanic, 7.18% Black/African American, 5.51% Asian, 1.35% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, .94% American Indian, and 2.65% Multi-Ethnic.

Ability Grouping/Support Classes

All students are encouraged to select the most challenging and rigorous courses of study appropriate to their abilities. VHS has transitioned to an all college preparatory curriculum. AP and honors classes prepare students to take Advanced Placement examinations. Support/companion courses are available in Mathematics and English Language Arts for students who have not demonstrated proficiency in those fields. Vacaville High School also offers a full range of Special Education courses including Resource, Special Day, and SDC-ED classes. English Learners are also supported by ELD classes, which are co-taught, at each grade level and clustered in the core courses.

Student Progress and Support

Students must earn 220 credits to graduate from Vacaville High School. Each class is worth 5 credits unless otherwise noted on the transcript. Students are supported by a counseling staff of 4 certificated counselors. Students have access to a school Psychologist, Nurse, Speech and Language Therapist, English Learner support, and Special Education resources program. The staff monitors students with 504 plans. Parents, students, or teachers may request Student Study Teams to help each student utilize the resources available for their overall success.

A variety of family, school, district, and community resources are available to assist students at Vacaville High School. These include: Psychological Services, Nursing Services, Special Education, Counseling Services, Youth Services (Vacaville Police Dept.), Link Crew, Student Study Team, Youth Taking On Tobacco, Migrant Education (Solano County), and the Youth Roundtable.

Counseling Staff/Student Support Personnel Team

Chancellor (A-C), Gmahling (D-KH), Drake (KI-Q), and Garcia (R-Z).

Counselors are integral members of our Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT). The SSPT works to promote academic success and a safe, nurturing school climate for all students through a student-centered program of support based on the National Standards for School Counseling.

Counselors help direct students' current academic progress based on future career and college interests. Counselors meet yearly with every student to complete an individual academic review. Students wishing to see a counselor complete an appointment request slip before or after school or during lunch. These slips are available in the counseling office; counselors send passes to notify students of their appointments.

Each counselor received training (Brief Intervention) in an approach for intervening with students who are experiencing problems with alcohol or other drugs. Counselors now offer Brief Intervention to students who are caught on campus (or at school events) in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. In many cases, the student receives a reduced consequence (e.g., fewer days of suspension) if he/she and their parent agree to participate in Brief Intervention sessions.

Academic Performance Index (API) Scores

Vacaville High School's API has increased from a score of 658 in 2004 to 762 in 2012. Vacaville High School's statewide API rank is 4, and is measured against statistically similar schools. (The lowest rank is 1 with the highest rank being 10.)

School Discipline & Campus Climate

Vacaville High School has developed a variety of programs and procedures designed to assure each student a safe, respectful, accepting and emotionally nurturing environment while developing each student's resiliency skills.

Vacaville High School provides a progressive structure for student discipline. Students receive information about the district-wide discipline guidelines from their classroom teachers and via school-wide intercom announcements. A copy of the district discipline guidelines is in a folder that is provided to each student at the beginning of the school year. (A copy of the pertinent folder materials is included in the appendix and can be accessed on the school website.) Reminders about important rules and expectations appear in the daily bulletin, which is broadcast over our school's intercom system and available on the school website.

In the interest of promoting a positive, psychologically safe and wholesome learning environment, a school-wide dress code has been established. A copy of the dress code is included in the student folder and is reviewed with students in various ways.

The Bulldog Citizenship Plan is in its seventh year of operation. The plan is, essentially, a merit/demerit system. A student who engages in negative conduct or demonstrates poor attendance receives demerits. After being assessed thirty demerits, a student is not eligible to participate in specified activities, including dances, athletics, and field trips. Students who are recognized for positive conduct and/or excellent attendance may earn merits. Information about the Bulldog Citizenship Plan also appears in the provided student folder.

Administrators can assign lunch time detentions for infractions of the behavior code. Students can also be assigned In House Detention (IHD) by teachers and/or administrators. IHD removes a student from the teacher's classroom for no more than two periods. Vacaville High School has a Saturday School for students who violate the behavior code or have truancy issues. The program has recouped ADA for the district and has improved the campus climate. Suspensions at home and expulsions are possible consequences for students who consistently and/or purposefully disrupt the learning environment.

Vacaville High School students are rewarded for appropriate behavior. Outstanding students are recognized monthly by staff through a BIONIC student program. Staff submits names of students to administration for recognition. Parents of recognized students are contacted and student names are displayed on our electronic marquee. Students are also recognized through a Student of the Week and Senior of the Week program. The "Black and Orange Recognition Awards" were established seven years ago to honor student achievement in the areas of attendance, effort, character, citizenship, and participation. Approximately 400 students have received one or more Black and Orange Award in each of our first six ceremonies.

Vacaville High School's Link Crew program has received recognition throughout the state and nation. Link Crew is a powerful transition program designed to help incoming freshmen find success as they move from middle school to high school. 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. This support network of upperclassmen helps incoming students make the social, emotional, and academic adjustment to the high school setting.

In addition, Vacaville High School students have had the opportunity to participate in Breaking Down the Walls (BDTW). BDTW is a powerful bullying/violence prevention program that teaches students how to communicate with each other, giving them the tools to work together in times of question or conflict. BDTW is also a leadership development program as it empowers positive leaders from a variety of peer groups to help create a school climate that is safe, comfortable and supportive for everyone. Approximately 450 students participated in this program in October 2012. This program has been offered on a biyearly basis for many years.

Vacaville High School students have the opportunity to develop leadership skills by participating in YTOT (Youth Takin' on Tobacco and other Drugs). YTOT takes their strong anti-drug message directly to VHS students in their health classes. Either as a participant in YTOT or as a recipient of the YTOT message, students can develop social competencies, particularly the resistance skills that have been proven to help young people avoid negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.

Together, Link Crew, Breaking Down the Walls, and YTOT are a part of a well-rounded wellness program that contribute to the health and safety of students by addressing important developmental assets such as positive peer influence and caring school climate.

Youth Services

The Vacaville Police Department has established a youth services office that is housed on campus. It is staffed by a sworn officer (Ron Jacobson), a Master Social Worker (Jaime Reyes), and a Family Support Worker (Lucia Rivera). The Youth Services office also provides counseling interns that benefit the students of Vacaville High School. The office is located on the Monte Vista side of the school campus.

Safety of Grounds and Facility

Vacaville maintenance personnel work extremely hard to maintain the building and grounds. Periodic safety inspections are conducted by custodians, North Bay Insurance, and Vacaville Fire Department. Over the past decade, the school has received construction updates of the gym and many classrooms. A school-wide intercom and bell system allows administration to notify students and teachers of emergencies. All classrooms are equipped with telephones, which permit classroom teachers and other staff to communicate with the office and access emergency services. A video camera system gives administrators the ability to view and record various campus locations, allowing for improved supervision on our campus. Classrooms are fitted with appropriate fire extinguishers as a result of the aforementioned construction. Science classrooms are outfitted with safety blankets, eye wash stations, and chemical hazard supplies. School security and safety is monitored by four full-time campus supervisors, four full-time administrators, a youth services officer, and the staff of Vacaville High.

SECTION 2: ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STATUS OF SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND CRIME & CAMPUS CLIMATE

Safety Plan Document

The safe school plan is a comprehensive document designed, in part, to prepare students, staff, and administration for extraordinary situations and it is updated and supported continuously as district policy is modified or changed.

While Vacaville High School is an older facility, renovations have brought about some much-needed additions to the site. A telephone communication system is in every classroom, which allows contact between the classroom and the office; staff is also able to access emergency services from their classrooms. The intercom system permits the office to contact all students and staff at one time from the office for emergency purposes. In addition, doors have been installed that permit classrooms to be locked from the inside in the event of a campus lockdown. Exterior lighting has been added and a number of security cameras are in place with a monitoring system in the office. Safety equipment has been upgraded in the science and shop facilities.

Enrollment, Attendance and Truancy

The enrollment at Vacaville High School during 2012-2013 was 1942 students with a truancy rate of 28.5%--down 1.7% from 30.2%. (The truancy rate is determined by dividing the number of students with an unexcused absence of more than 30 minutes on three or more days by the total enrollment.) Vacaville High School had an actual pupil attendance rate of 95.01% (as of P1) during 2012-2013. In the spring of 2010 (2012 survey results not yet available), students in 9th and 11th grade self reported truancy in the California Healthy Kids Survey as follows:

During the past 12 months, about how many times did you skip school or cut classes?

	Grade 9 %	Grade 11 %
0 times	65	41
1-2 times	15	21
A few times	13	22
Once a month	2	4
Once a week	1	5
More that once a week	3	8

Student Discipline Data -- Suspensions, Expulsions and Referrals

During 2011-2012, 378 student suspensions were assigned at Vacaville High School. Four students were expelled. A detailed analysis of suspension and expulsion data is presented below. Students can be assigned to In School Suspension by administrators for classroom disruptions or as an alternative to suspension. During 2011-2012, students served 1634 periods of In School Detention. Students are also assigned lunch time administrative detention for tardies and other disciplinary infractions. During 2011-2012, students were assigned Saturday School for truancy, as an alternative to suspension or as a method of earning merits 67 times.

Ed Code Text	Number of Expulsions	Number of Suspensions
Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity	0	28
Related to disruption of school activities or willful defiance	0	96
Knowingly received stolen school property or private property	0	4
Related to harassment, threats, or intimidation	0	3
Related to physical injury to another person	0	19
Related to firearms, knives, explosive devices, etc.	0	7
Related to possession or sale of controlled substances, alcohol, or intoxicants	3	55
Related to sale of controlled substances, alcohol, or intoxicants	0	0
Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property	0	3
Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property	1	9
Related to possession or use of tobacco products	0	0
PDS-causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense	0	0
Overall Total	4	224
Violence/Drug Total	3	84
Violence/Drug Rate	0.5%	6.3%
Total of Persistently Dangerous Expulsions Only	0	N/A

Disciplinary referrals by ethnicity are noted below:

Ethnicity	% of Student Population	% of Discipline Referrals
White/Caucasian	57.1%	48.8%
Hispanic	26.2%	33.2%
Black/African-American	8.0%	11.8%
Asian	3.5%	1.9%
Filipino	2.5%	2.0%
Pacific Islander	1.6%	1.0%
American Indian	1.1%	1.1%

Campus Security

Vacaville High School is fortunate to have a Youth Service Unit of the Vacaville Police Department on campus. One sworn officer and a Master Social Worker are on campus. These resources assist in the management of our student population. A variety of parenting and youth programs (e.g. Parent Project, Anger Management, INSIGHT drug and alcohol group) are offered through this office. In addition to a police presence on campus, four campus supervisors monitor the campus. These campus supervisors are trained in conflict mediation strategies.

Vacaville Police personnel, Vacaville High School administrators and campus supervisors, and district personnel meet monthly as part of a Gang Task Force committee that addresses gang, graffiti, and safety issues that the schools and community have in common. From time to time, members of the Vacaville Police Force present gang information to teachers at faculty meetings. During the 2006-2007 school year, a multi-disciplinary team was formed comprised of representatives of the school, the police department and probation. This team meets monthly to discuss students of mutual concern.

Crime Data

Vacaville Police Department Reported Crime (selected statistics)
Vacaville High School 2011-2012 School Year

Crime	# of incidents	# of persons arrested	VVPD Case #
Petty Theft	1	1	2012-03633
Drunk in public	1	1	2011-06816
Battery – misdemeanor One offender also charged with probation violation	8	9	See next page
Battery – felony	1	1	2012-02090
Possession of weapon on campus	3	3	2011-06721 2011-06880 2012-03013
Poss. Marijuana for Sale & Possession of Weapon	1	1	2011-07144
Poss. of stolen property	2	2	2012-00608 2012-03636
Trespassing by non-student	1	1	2011-05674
Possession of marijuana on campus	10	10	See next page
Possession of Alcohol on campus	1	1	2011-06591
Possession of Alcohol & Marijuana on campus (2 separate violations)	3	3	2011-05882 2011-07147 2011-07786
Burglary & Possession of marijuana on campus	1	2	2011-07215
Possession of Controlled Substance	1	1	2012-00264
Poss. Of Controlled Substance & Poss. of Dangerous Fireworks	1	1	2012-01578
Totals	35	37	

****Note:**

- All cases reported here were confirmed to have occurred on campus, during school hours or a school event, AND resulted in an arrest.
- Events that occurred during football games on Vacaville High School campus during a Will C. Wood event were included in the Will C. Wood statistics.

Case Numbers for Misdemeanor Battery cases:

**2011-06756
2011-07035
2011-07553
2011-08316
2012-00462
2012-01124
2012-01742
2012-02094**

Case Numbers for Possession of Marijuana on School Grounds:

**2011-06832
2011-07182
2011-07477
2011-08175
2011-08201
2011-08289
2011-08367
2011-08445
2012-00502
2012-03257**

The North Bay Schools Insurance authority acts as the lead agency in school safety. This agency and school custodians conduct periodic inspections and reviews. Accident report summaries are provided by the NBSIA to site administration and these are reviewed annually. Accident reports are also maintained in the nurse's office and the office of the principal's secretary.

California Healthy Kids Survey

The California Healthy Kids survey is administered biyearly. In the Spring 2010 report (2012 results not yet available), students self reported information on physical violence, property damage, and weapons. This data is summarized in the table that follows.

	Grade 9 %	Grade 11 %
Been pushed, shoved, hit etc.		
0 times	61	75
1 time	15	11
2 to 3 times	13	6
4 or more times	11	8
Been afraid of being beaten up		
0 times	75	85
1 time	13	7
2 to 3 times	5	3
4 or more times	7	5
Been in a physical fight		
0 times	77	80
1 time	11	10
2 to 3 times	6	4
4 or more times	6	6
Had property stolen/damaged		
0 times	62	73
1 time	20	12
2 to 3 times	8	8
4 or more times	9	7
Damaged school property on purpose		
0 times	77	86
1 time	12	5
2 to 3 times	5	3
4 or more times	6	6
Carried a gun		
0 times	93	97
1 time	3	1
2 or more times	4	2
Carried any other weapon		
0 times	85	88
1 time	4	5
2 or more times	10	8

SECTION 3: DISTRICT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

Every year, child abuse reporting procedures are reviewed with staff by a school nurse following BP AR 5141.4. These procedures (report by telephone immediately or as soon as possible to the Vacaville Police Department or Child Protective Services and file a written report within 36 hours) are strictly followed.

Disaster Procedures and Crisis Intervention

Vacaville High School has a comprehensive plan in place to meet each of the following situations: police emergencies, bomb threats, intruder on campus, contaminated atmosphere/toxic release of chemicals, earthquake, and fire (including clearly posted evacuation routes in each classroom). Staff members receive handbooks outlining the procedures to take in the event of various emergencies. These procedures are reviewed from time to time at staff meetings and are practiced through monthly school-wide drills. Additionally, the Global-Connect system can be used to contact staff, students, and parents regarding emergency situations that occur when school is not in session.

Vacaville High School has a Crisis Team for after traumatic events: principal, assistant principals, dean of learning support, counselors, school psychologist, school nurse, and selected staff.

School/District Discipline Policies

Any student who commits an act that will result in a possible suspension or expulsion is written up as a referral, which is delivered to the administration, and district policies are followed. Every parent receives a copy of the District Policies regarding offenses that may result in suspension/expulsion at the beginning of the school year, or upon their entrance later in the year. Students receive a folder that outlines discipline guidelines. These guidelines are also discussed with students by classroom teachers and via intercom broadcasts at the beginning of the school year with particular emphasis on issues related to weapons and harassment. Administration revisits rules and expectations with students from time to time throughout the school year, as necessary,

If a student is suspended from school, the parents are notified via phone and mail. Students are provided due process, and discipline follows a progressive plan of consequences. If a student is recommended for expulsion, the student's rights will be addressed pursuant to Board policy and administrative regulations.

Notification Procedures of Students with Discipline Issues

In an effort to protect teachers and students, weekly bulletins are sent to teachers via email notifying them of the students attending Vacaville High School who have been suspended from school in the past three years and/or are on probation (or have been within the previous year).

Non-Discrimination/ Harassment Policies

Policies regarding non-discrimination and harassment are sent to parents at the beginning of the school year. These policies are presented to and reviewed with the students several times throughout the school year. The policies clearly indicate that discrimination and/or harassment for any reason (including, but not limited to, race, gender, religion and sexual orientation) is prohibited and is subject to serious consequences, including expulsion. A student can be suspended or put up for expulsion for: Engaging in an act of bullying, including but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel. Personnel receive a copy of policy prohibiting unlawful harassment in the work place. This is also posted on site in the faculty room.

Students also receive consequences that may include suspension or expulsion for hate crimes or hazing. Students are taught to value diversity and differences in the school community.

Dress Code

The importance of appropriate school dress is clearly communicated to each student. Dress code standards are shared with students at the beginning of the school year on “rules day” and are posted on classroom walls, frequently reviewed by staff, and discussed with students by administration and campus supervisors. Information related to the dress code appears in the student folder, which is distributed to every student. Gang attire and activity or association with known gang members is prohibited on campus pursuant to Board policy and administrative regulations. Administrators warn and cite students as necessary for violation of gang attire dress code violations. Parents are notified by mail and by phone if their student is prohibited from wearing red or blue gang attire at school.

Safe Ingress and Egress

At VHS, students and staff get to campus in multiple ways. Some are dropped off, some walk onto campus, some ride bikes, and others drive personal vehicles. Students who ride bikes are provided bicycle racks in which to park. Students who drive have access to parking on a first-come, first-served basis. Ingress and egress locations are clearly marked, and fire lanes are kept clear of automobiles, buses, and students. Campus supervisors assist with traffic flow as students exit the main parking lot at the end of the school day. Traffic violations are addressed by campus supervisors, administration, and youth services officers pursuant to Board policy and administrative regulations.

SECTION 4: EVALUATION AND ONGOING PLAN REVISIONS

This plan will be reviewed annually and amended as needed by the Site Safety Committee and approved through School Site Council. Copies will be available at the school office for review by parents and other members of the community.