

HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HOOVER!!

Hoover Middle School has had a reputation for academic and artistic excellence for over 50 years. Our staff is working together to rededicate ourselves to this tradition. At the same time we are making sure that all of our students – regardless of ethnicity or socio-economic status – are successful in our school.

Our teachers work collaboratively to plan lessons and assess student learning. We are consciously developing “joyful” learning in our classrooms through an emphasis on project-based and hands-on learning. Our PTA is helping us this year by purchasing new computers for a third computer lab, funding high technology teaching in our classrooms, and supporting our student clubs with teacher stipends. Please visit and see how we are doing for yourself.

Thomas H. Graven, Principal

GENERAL INFO

How many students are there at Hoover this year? 1156

How many incoming 6th graders will there be? About 370

TRANSPORTATION

Where is Hoover Middle School located?

Hoover is located on 14th Ave. at Santiago – tucked between the West Portal, Laguna Honda and South Inner Sunset neighborhoods on the western slope of Twin Peaks with panoramic ocean views.

How can I get the public school bus schedule for Hoover?

Bus schedules are available in the main office. For the latest update, call SFUSD, 695-5505.

What MUNI buses have bus stops near Hoover? The 48 bus stops in front of Hoover at the scheduled drop off and pick up times. The L stops at 15th & Taraval (two blocks from Hoover) & the M line stops at West Portal Station (five blocks from Hoover). Both stops are in a safe neighborhood.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

When does Hoover start?

Hoover officially starts at 9:10 A. M. The bell rings at 9:00 A.M. to go to homeroom. We have a late start every Wednesday for teachers to work together, so on Wednesdays the bell rings at 9:30 A.M. to go to homeroom.

How early can I drop off my child at Hoover?

School gates and front doors open at 8:30 A.M. Supervision begins at this time. Students may go to the cafeteria, the library, or the schoolyard until 9:00 A.M. (Exception: Zero Period students may go to their class at 8 A.M. with a pass. Note: No zero period on Wednesdays due to the late start.)

When does Hoover end?

School ends at 3:30 P.M. Parents will be notified in advance when there is early dismissal for parent/teacher conferences or professional development for teachers.

HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL (415) 759-2783 <http://sfpta.org/Hoover>

ACADEMICS

How many teachers will my child have for his/her core subjects?

In the 6th grade, most children will have one teacher for math and science and one teacher for language arts and social studies (This is called “coring” and is common in many middle schools as a way to transition students from elementary school.) Some special programs such as Immersion and ELD will have individual teachers for each class (singletons) depending on program need. In 7th grade and 8th grade, all GE students have one teacher per class.

What was Hoover’s 2009-10 API score? 820

What about the quality of Hoover’s teachers?

Hoover has a fully credentialed staff, many with over 20 years of experience here in our building. The entire faculty and staff are working well together – in small groups and as a whole – to build a collaborative culture that supports student achievement.

What resources does Hoover have for students whose scores are low-performing and/or basic or below basic? Hoover provides an innovative and intensive intervention curriculum in reading and mathematics for all students who score at the basic or below basic level on the CST. Tutoring is provided by teachers before school, after school and at lunch on a teacher-by-teacher basis.

ELECTIVES

What electives are offered at Hoover?

6th grade: students rotate through 2 or more of the following: Computers, Chorus, Art, and Independent Living (sewing & cooking basics) OR they may elect year-round Band or Orchestra.
7th & 8th grade: students rotate through 2 or more of the following: Art, Computer, Independent Living, OR they may elect year-round Band, Orchestra, Journalism, Yearbook, or apply to be an Office/Library Assistant. NOTE: English Language Learner students will be placed in English Language Development as their elective. Spanish and Chinese Language Immersion students who cannot attend zero period will have their language class as their elective.

How do I enroll my child in an elective?

When an incoming family completes their registration form for Hoover, they will check their child’s first, second, and third choice for his/her elective. 7th and 8th graders sign up for electives during the spring semester for the following year. If your child’s first choice is full, your child will get his/her second choice, etc.

Can my child be in the music program and also take a second elective?

Unfortunately no, students may only take one elective course. The only exception is Immersion students who attend the zero period class may take their language class and an elective.

ZERO PERIOD OPPORTUNITIES

What is Zero period?

Zero period runs from 8-9 A.M. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Immersion program students who wish to have an elective class in addition to their language class may take zero period.

What classes are offered during this period?

Chinese Immersion Language class, Spanish Immersion Language class, and Physical Education for the Immersion classes are offered. These classes receive a grade on your child’s transcripts and have attendance requirements just like every other class.

HONORS CLASSES

Are Honors classes offered at Hoover? Yes.

Does my child have to be a designated GATE student to be placed in Honors classes?

No, GATE and Honors are separate programs. There are district criteria for GATE identification that apply to all SFUSD schools. Honors criteria, on the other hand, vary from school to school. Hoover’s criteria include receiving advanced on CST scores, GPA of 3.0, and teacher(s) recommendation. Students must meet all three criteria to be eligible for Honors classes.

What is the difference between Honors and General Education classes at Hoover?

Honors and GE classes cover the same grade level standards and use the same textbooks. All teachers at Hoover are trained in differentiated learning. In Honors classes the teacher may be able to go deeper into the material and add more projects and discussion.

If my child is not in Honors in the 6th grade, can she/he get into Honors classes in the 7th and 8th grades? Yes, but space is limited.

Are Honors classes at Hoover an all or nothing proposition?

Currently, sixth grade students are either in all Honors classes or not. In seventh and eighth grade, there can be more flexibility depending on a student’s needs and class availability. However, Math Honors is separated from the “CORE Honors” of Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science.

Do Honors classes get the best teachers?

All teachers at Hoover teach both Honors and General Education classes.

CHINESE and SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAMS

What does the Immersion Program include?

The Immersion Program includes a Chinese or Spanish Language class and a subject area class that is taught in Chinese or Spanish. Currently, the Immersion subject area class is Social Studies.

How do I enroll my child in the Immersion Program?

You must register for the Immersion program on your school application and be part of a Chinese or Spanish Immersion program in elementary school.

Can my child be in the Immersion Program and also take Honors classes?

The program itself is an enrichment program. Depending on whether or not your child meets the Honors criteria and your child’s individual schedule his/her 7th and 8th grade classes in Language Arts, Science, and Math can be Honors classes.

Will my child have the opportunity to take an elective if he/she is in the Immersion program?

Yes, Chinese and Spanish Language and Physical Education are offered during Zero period allowing Immersion students to take an elective in addition to the language class (but ONLY if the student attends a zero period class). The school administration is committed to continuing this practice in future, however this may be impacted by funding.

If my child is enrolled in the Immersion program at Hoover can he/she move to the General Education program at Hoover?

If a student wants to leave (or enter) any program he/she must re-apply to Hoover with a SFUSD application at Educational Placement Center. The student is not guaranteed placement at Hoover.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

What is Hoover's philosophy about special education students?

The primary goal for every student with special needs is to learn the skills necessary to succeed within the General Education setting. We believe in fluid movement between SPED placements for students depending on their needs and our Special Education Department is very adept at creating innovative and flexible programs for students.

What resources does Hoover have for special education students?

INCLUSION: Students are fully included in General Education classes and are supported by Special Ed teachers and/or paraprofessionals within the classroom setting. **SPECIAL DAY CLASS:** Students with learning disabilities and/or emotional disturbances who are not able to access the core curriculum within the General Education setting are taught in a separate classroom for all or some core subjects. **RESOURCE SPECIALIST PROGRAM:** Students are enrolled in General Education classes and may receive Resource Specialist support either through a Study Skills class or math and/or reading intervention during a core class. Inclusion and Special Day Class students also have access to these classes.

What resources does Hoover have for ELD students?

Nearly all of our teachers have CLAD certification and have received training in ELD teaching strategies. We have a Spanish-speaking Parent Liaison and parent volunteers to provide support and translation for Spanish and Chinese speaking families. We also have English Language Development classes and an ELD coordinator.

HOMEROOM

What is homeroom?

Every morning each child goes to his/her homeroom first. Homeroom runs from 9:10-9:30 A.M. (Wednesdays are 9:40-9:50 A.M.). Homerooms have elected officers. In homeroom, students get informed about school-wide activities and special events and discuss issues of concern to students. Homerooms remain the same from 6th-8th grade so that students can develop a comfortable and supportive ohana (family) throughout their stay at Hoover. Occasionally, during homeroom period, we will have an extended advisory period. The Advisory period is designed to offer a space where homerooms—as well as the school community—can bond with one another and where school climate issues and information can be addressed and delivered to students and families. The curriculum covered during Advisory period ranges from team-building and community activities to lessons on goal setting and high school and college readiness.

SPORTS TEAMS & OPPORTUNITIES

What sports do we offer at Hoover?

We offer separate boys' and girls' teams for baseball, softball, and basketball; coed teams for soccer and track; and a girls' volleyball team. Team practice generally takes place after school.

When does each sport start?

Boys' baseball and girls' softball runs from September through October.

Boys' and girls' basketball runs from October through December.

Coed soccer runs from October through December.

Girls' Volleyball runs from January through February.

Coed track runs from February through April.

What must you do to participate in after school sports?

1. You must get a SFUSD Physical Form from the main office or athletic director.
2. You must have a full physical by a doctor and the doctor must complete the SFUSD Physical Form.
3. Return the SFUSD Physical Form to the Athletic Director (Mr. Gomes) before try-outs begin.

Who do I contact to find out more about school sports? Contact the Athletic Director, Mr. Gomes.

STUDENT CLUBS

What clubs/support groups are available at Hoover?

Mural Club, Academic Support Club, Hoover Scholar Club, Library Club, Sci-Fi Club, Drill Team Club, Chamber Music Club, Outdoor Club, Strategic Games Club, Gay-Straight Alliance, Math Counts, English Club, Boys Club, Rocket Club are some of the options. Clubs may change semester to semester.

How does my child sign up for a club?

Students learn about clubs in their homerooms early in the year and sign-up with the sponsoring teacher.

When do clubs meet?

Clubs usually meet during lunch, but some clubs are offered before/after school.

What other opportunities are there at Hoover for students during lunchtime?

Teen Wellness Center, Library, Healthy Team sports tournaments, recreational sports on the blacktop, outdoor tables and benches for eating and hanging out. Also, on Fridays, we have music and games in the gym.

Are there other opportunities for my child to gain non-academic experience at Hoover?

Students can be elected to student government as homeroom officers, grade-level officers, or school officers. Students can become Safe School Ambassadors (teacher recommendation only).

COUNSELING RESOURCES

What is the ratio of counselors to students at Hoover?

We have three grade-level counselors and two Learning Support Professionals funded by a federal grant so the ratio is about 1:230.

What are the vision and values of the Counseling Office and how does it work at Hoover?

The Counseling Office is committed to meeting the academic, social/emotional, and career counseling needs of every student. Counselors work and study together in an Equity Centered Professional Learning Community focused on building a healthy school community at Hoover. “We see every referral as an opportunity. We believe that all students would do well if they could, that there are always factors that contribute to behavior issues, and that these factors can be uncovered through skillful counseling. We value honesty above all else to help everyone understand the underlying stories of each person’s life.” Currently, our counseling office is practicing Collaborative Problem Solving and Restorative Justice.

What are Restorative Justice and Collaborative Problem Solving?

Restorative Justice is a non-punitive approach to student discipline that educates the child about the impact of their behavior on the community and teaches them the skills they need to avoid the behavior in the future, in addition to requiring restitution for harm done. This is usually accomplished in Restorative Justice circles. Collaborative Problem Solving is an approach that works with students to identify problems that are hindering their growth and function in the school. Collaborative Problem Solving sessions usually are undertaken in small groups, and may include any combination of the student, teacher, parent and counselor.

SAFETY

What resources do you have in place to assure that my child will be safe at Hoover?

Hoover is a safe urban school with supervision structures in place throughout the day, and many personnel to provide supervision—counselors, administrators, Security Aides. All adults on campus work together to make sure that the school day goes smoothly, including one security person on each floor and 15 adults on duty during passing periods and lunch. Students are encouraged to consult with adults if they have concerns, and Advisory curriculums and grade-level assemblies reinforce the message that they need to bring any concerns about safety to adults immediately. In addition, Hoover has a half-time nurse on campus.

How does Hoover deal with bullying and discipline in general?

We are proactive in defusing bullying and other behavior concerns through our Advisory and grade-level assembly curricula. Our motto is “Ohana (family): no one is forgotten, and no one is left behind.” We explain that if any one of our students has a problem, the whole community has a problem, and we ask students to hold to this promise by letting us help them with their concerns.

Is Hoover prepared for emergencies like earthquakes and other disasters?

We follow the State and City emergency plan for all major emergencies including earthquakes. We periodically conduct drills to make sure that all personnel and students are familiar with the procedures.

COMMUNICATIONS

How does Hoover keep families informed?

Hoover staff and parents are always updating and improving all communications systems and tools. Tools for communicating with families and teachers include: Homerooms, the Hawkeye News, the student newspaper, the PTA-run Hoover website, Hoover Happenings, Hoover Google listserv, Hoover Handbook (calendar & directories), School Loop, Principal Chats, and our Parent Liaison on staff.

Are documents translated into other languages?

Yes. All vital documents are translated into Chinese and Spanish with the help of the district’s translation department, Hoover staff, and parent volunteers.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

How can parents get involved at Hoover?

Parent participation is welcome at Hoover. Parent involvement and volunteering are an essential component of Hoover's dynamism and success. There are many ways for parents/families to get involved such as: joining the PTA; coming to PTA meetings, SSC meetings, or Asian, Spanish or African American Community meetings; volunteering for school-wide events, chaperoning on class field trips, donating supplies, contributing to the Annual Fund donation drive; and attending concerts, science fairs, and other special events. Most importantly, Hoover encourages parents to get involved by communicating with their child about what she/he is learning and by staying on top of his/her assignments, tests, social/emotional needs and successes.

LIBRARY

Is there a full-time librarian? Yes, thanks in part to Prop. H, Hoover has a full-time librarian who oversees a large, efficient library with panoramic views.

What hours is the library open to students? 8:45 A.M. to 3:45 P.M.

Is the library re-stocked every year and kept up to date?

The librarian is always looking for new books and the annual Scholastic Book Fair provides some funds and books for the library.

TECHNOLOGY AT HOOVER

Is there a computer room at Hoover?

Yes. Two computer labs are being utilized for computer classes throughout the day. Additionally, computers are available in the library and in the counseling office for student and parent/guardian use.

Does every class have a computer?

Every teacher has access to a computer but not every room has a computer accessible to students.

Does Hoover have wi-fi and up-to-date technology?

Hoover has recently been upgraded to fiber optics.

ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENTS & PROJECTS

Does Hoover sponsor special events for students and families throughout the year?

We have: Family Math & Science Night, Science Fair, Silly Olympics, Spring Fair, International Night, 8th grade trip to Washington DC, 8th grade graduation picnic at McNeers, Unified Arts Night, Talent Show, School Dances, Music Program Concert Series, Incoming 6th Grade Ice Cream Social, School-wide Spelling and Geography Bees, Coastal Cleanup Day, Scholastic Book Fair, PTA Reflections Arts Competition, Class Field Trips (e.g. Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Concert), and more.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM & OPTIONS

How do I sign up my child for the Hoover ExCEL/ Stonestown Family YMCA After School Enrichment (ASP) Program?

You can pick up an application in the Main Office. Once completed, return it to the Main Office and somebody from the ASP will contact you if your student has been accepted. If the program is full, your student will be placed on the waiting list.

What are the eligibility criteria and how many children can join?

Each year the program is awarded, through grants, a specific amount of money, which can be used to serve a designated amount of students. All students are eligible to participate, however, priority is given to families who already participate in YMCA ASPs, students with special needs, students recommended by school staff, and students with the most need.

What are the after school program hours? The ASP runs Monday-Friday from 3:30-6:30.

What is the content of this program? The ASP consists of 1/3 recreation activities, 1/3 enrichment activities, and 1/3 academic activities. Recreation activities include sports teams, games, Teen Center, Wii, movies, skateboarding, walking field trips, and clubs. Enrichment activities include arts & crafts, cooking, dance, creative writing, gardening, bike program, and American Sign Language. Academic activities include homework hour, tutoring, reading, science, math, and academic challenges. There are also field trips and community service opportunities.

Is there a cost for this program? This program is completely free!!!

What are some other after school options for my child?

West Portal Public Library is open every day after school and is five blocks from Hoover. Other options: Parkside Library or other SF Public Libraries near your home, Beacon Centers, Boys & Girls Club Centers. Other after-school opportunities for children are listed at www.sfkids.org

DROP OFF & PICK UP

Where do I drop off my child? You can drop your child off at the front of the school at 14th Ave. and Santiago. Due to congestion, it is advised that you drop your child off at Taraval & 14th Ave., 15th & Santiago, or on Funston off Taraval between 12th & 14th Ave. There is a crossing guard at 14th & Santiago.

Where do I pick up my child?

To avoid congestion, it is recommended that you set up a consistent location to pick up your child at any of the above locations.

TARDIES & ABSENCES

What do I do if my child is late to school?

Students who arrive to school before Homeroom ends go straight to homeroom. Students who arrive to school after Homeroom ends are to go to the Main Office to get an official tardy pass. The tardy will only be excused if the student brings a signed, dated note with an excusable reason for the tardy.

What do I do if my child is absent from school? If your child is absent, he/she must bring a written note signed by a parent/guardian to the main office lobby window when he/she returns to school. Only reasons that are deemed excusable by the state of California will be excused.

What do I do if I need to have my child leave school early?

If you need to have your child leave school early, he/she can bring a note to the Main Office window during Homeroom to get a Permit to Leave (PTL). Your child will then show the note to his/her teacher and will be excused to the Main Office at the time indicated. You, as a parent/guardian, may also come to the Main Office to request to have your child leave school early and write a note at that time. However, keep in mind that it may take 15 minutes or more for your child to get to the Main Office. Also, if your child is in P.E. he/she will take even longer as the locker rooms are locked and security will have to escort your child to the locker room to get changed. Therefore, we highly recommend sending a note and having your child get a PTL.

WHAT'S NEW AT HOOVER

* **Renovation**— Hoover is in its second year of a two-year \$11 million renovation project. The school is receiving new elevators, a newly designed main office, a new entrance to the building, and much needed new windows. This effort is being carefully planned so that the Hoover program will not be significantly disrupted. This renovation is being funded by SFUSD. The key purpose is to make the building more accessible to people with disabilities. In addition, all buildings will get fresh paint inside and out.

* **New Web-based Math Support Program** – Hoover is a participant in the Middle School ALEKS initiative. All general education (non honors) students are assigned an ALEKS license and are able to use this web based math support program to follow their own course of math enrichment and skill development. ALEKS can be accessed from home or school and each child has an individual account where they can move at their own pace through the math curriculum. More information can be found by googling ALEKS on the web.

* **School Grounds Enhancement Plan**—Parent volunteers will continue working with staff to develop a plan that includes landscaping with native plants, general beautification, as well as a butterfly garden and educational trail to support the endangered Green Hairstreak butterfly currently living on Hawk Hill.

* **A Third Computer Lab**—Thanks to our PTA, Hoover will be opening a third computer lab in 2011. Hoover is also finally connected to state-of-the-art fiber optics and is determined to move into the 21st century with IT updates. The PTA is currently fundraising for Smart Boards or similar digital instructional tools for teacher and student use in 2011-12.

Updated: 11/9/10

