

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Report  
to the  
Community  
2007-2008*



**Terman  
Middle  
School**

**School Description  
& Mission Statement**

Terman Middle School is the home to approximately 695 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from Palo Alto, Stanford, and Los Altos Hills. Our elementary feeder schools are Barron Park, Juana Briones, and Nixon, as well as students from Hoover, and Ohlone Elementary Schools. Almost all of our students will go on to Gunn High School.

**Our Vision Statement**

Terman Middle School is an inclusive community of students, families, and educators engaged in achieving high academic and social standards with respect for diversity in a positive school climate. In order to achieve our Vision Statement we will: hire and retain a highly qualified staff committed to the middle school vision; have rigorous content and performance standards that are clear and measurable; design, implement, and maintain a clear communication system; commit to, collaborate on, and follow through with all actions supporting the Vision Statement; establish and implement clear social standards; foster a sense of personal responsibility in each community member, develop and implement proactive interventions informed by data and research; plan and apply coherent staff development that supports our vision; solicit and respond to input from our diverse population; and, develop a sense of community through on-going meaningful activities.

**Opportunities for Parental  
Involvement**

We are fortunate to have families and a community, which provide immense support to our school. The PTA serves as a major communication link with families, distributing a monthly newsletter, the Tiger Talk, and weekly eNews as well as offering monthly meetings and parent education events. Parents also provide thousands of hours of direct support to the school in the form of assisting staff in the classrooms and library, planning and chaperoning student social events, as well as sharing expertise on a wide range of subjects from cultural traditions to technology. This year the PTA is focused on building community. The Site Council consists of parents, students and staff, all selected by their peers, and is a central forum and decision-making group for the school.

*Student demographics, testing and accountability data, class size, staffing and financial information are available in the state-mandated School Accountability Report Cards. These may be found on the PAUSD Web site: <http://www.pausd.org/community/about/sar.shtml> or obtained at your school. Similar information, current and historical, about individual schools and school districts is also available on the California Department of Education Web site: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/>.*

## School Programs & Practices That Promote a Positive Learning Environment

Terman Middle School has a rotating block schedule, which prevents any student from having the same class late in the afternoon every day. Periods 1 and 2 are “frozen” into the first two slots of each to allow us to share staff with other district schools.

In the 6th grade students spend five periods with their core teachers, who provide instruction in English/language arts, history/social science, mathematics, science, and study skills. During the other two periods, students take music and physical education on alternate days and the exploratory wheel, which is a six-week rotational experience in the different elective areas including art, computer keyboarding, drama, introduction to foreign language, home economics, and industrial technology.

In the 7th and 8th grades, students take English/language arts, history/social studies, math, physical education, and science daily. In 7th grade science, the biological sciences are combined with an adolescent skills course which enables students to deal with issues of adolescence. In addition to the core program, students may choose from a variety of elective classes including, foreign languages (French, German, Japanese, and Spanish), visual and performing arts, career-vocational education, and subject matter electives.

One of the areas in which we are most fortunate is in the support system available to students. A counselor moves through grade levels with the students and is responsible for monitoring academic and personal adjustment and coordinating services for students. The School Discipline Plan is distributed to all families at the beginning of each year. Our goal is to have clear expectations for students that are developmentally appropriate and consistently enforced. We continue to strive to have an atmosphere marked by mutual respect and students assuming responsibility for their own actions.

## School Instruction & Leadership

The Ed Council works with the principal to coordinate school activities. The School Site Council is responsible for formulating and implementing a yearly plan to address curricular and instructional issues. This plan provides staff development for all teachers.

## *Terman Middle School*

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Principal ..... Carmen Giedt  
Assistant Principal ..... Steven Gallagher  
Counselor ..... Melanie Blaskower  
Counselor..... Michele Chin  
Counselor..... Terri Nelson

## School Safety Plan

Each year Terman Middle School reviews and updates its school safety and security plans. Components include: Students and Staff, Physical Environment, Social Environment, and Cultural Environment. In addition, Disaster/Emergency Action Plans provide protocols for responding to natural and manmade disasters. Preparedness efforts are coordinated with local agencies.

