

*"I am my community. My community is me."*



## Our Community

Hillcrest is a multicultural and multilingual elementary school in southeast San Francisco. Our mission is to engage students to become enthusiastic, lifelong learners who will make positive contributions to their families and their communities.

Hillcrest identifies as a Community School, which is a strategy for organizing community resources around student success. We subscribe to a holistic view of our students and employ an integrated focus on academics, socio-emotional supports, and family engagement activities that lead not only to improved student learning, but also to stronger families and healthier communities. In 2006 we received a Healthy Start grant from the California Department of Education, allowing us to develop and institutionalize our model.

Today, Hillcrest Community School roots its identity in an unwavering belief in the power of relationships. We support our resilient, yet under-resourced

community through the thoughtful integration of services from 35 community partners. Together we provide a rigorous, inquiry-based and literacy-focused academic program; a seamless day and year; parent engagement activities; and health and wellness programs.

Hillcrest is a flagship Community School in the San Francisco Unified School District and was awarded the **2013 National Community School Award for Excellence** by the National Coalition for Community Schools. In addition to creating a positive school environment, we also advocate beyond our school site to support the development of Community Schools within San Francisco and around the Bay Area.

**School Population:** Grades K-5; 450 students; 89% Free and Reduced-Price Lunch; 65% English Language Learners; 16% Special Needs Students.

**Demographics:** 43% Latino; 25% Chinese; 12% Other Non-White; 9% African American; 6% Filipino; 3% Other White; 2% Decline to State.

## Community Partners

Access Institute; AcroSports; Balanced Literacy Network; Bay Area SCORES; Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth; Columbia University Teachers College; Cowell Foundation; Education Outside; Edgewood Center for Children and Families; ExCEL; Experience Corps; Instituto Familiar de la Raza; Lick-Wilmerding High School; Packard

Foundation; Reading Partners; SF Arts Ed; SF Ballet; SF Department for Children; Youth and their Families; SF Ed Fund; SF Food Bank; SF Foundation; SF State University; SF Symphony; SFUSD Student Support Services Department; Streetside Stories; Support for Families for Children with Disabilities; U.C. Berkeley; Zellerbach Foundation

## Evaluation 2013-14

### Outputs

- 1,700 Volunteer Hours
- 250 Students in After School Program
- 165 Students in Summer Program
- \$1,393,500 dollars in leveraged and grant funding for support programming
- 8 Board Certified Teachers
- 28 Community Partners

### Outcomes

- 15% increase in CST scores (2010-13)
- 674 to 755 increase in API (2010-13)
- SFUSD Model School for Inclusive Practices
- **100% of teachers** surveyed agree that Hillcrest encourages **parents to be active partners in educating their children** (only 40% of long-time teachers agreed when compared to their 1<sup>st</sup> year at Hillcrest)
- **90% of teachers** surveyed agree that **disruptive student behavior is a mild/insignificant problem** (only 20% of long-time teachers agreed when compared to their 1<sup>st</sup> year at Hillcrest)

## Rigorous, Inquiry-Based, & Literacy-Focused Academic Program

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### *Professional Development*

- Columbia University's Teachers College
- Weekly Teacher Collaboration Meetings
- Balanced Literacy Network
- Equity-Centered Professional Learning Communities
- Literacy Coach

### *Academic Program*

- Columbia University Reader's and Writer's Workshop
- Quarterly Benchmark Reading Assessments
- Leveled Classroom Libraries
- Literacy Specialist Intervention
- End-of-Year 5th Grade Student Portfolio Presentations

## Seamless Day and Year

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### *After School Program*

- Linked-Day Staff
- Serves 250 students for free from 1:50 to 6:00 p.m.
- 100 student waiting list
- Inclusion Program
- Project-Based Lessons
- Soccer Team
- Community Service Projects
- Homework Help and One-on-One Literacy Tutoring
- Clubs: Bicycle, Skateboard, Glee, Art, Poetry, Garden

### *Summer Program*

- 6 weeks
- Serves 165 students from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 70 student waiting list
- Project-Based Neighborhood Studies
- Partnership with SF Public Library, Local Museums and California State Parks
- Focus on Middle School Transition and Prevention of Summer Learning Loss

## Parent Engagement

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### *Leadership*

- Parent Teacher Association
- English Language Learner Advisory Committee
- After School Parent Group
- School Site Council
- Leadership Trainings

### *Supports*

- Family Resource Center
- Food Bank
- Bi-lingual Parent Outreach Staff - Cantonese and Spanish
- Workshops: Parenting, Father's Group, Family Literacy
- Family Reading Room
- Resources and Referrals

## Health and Wellness

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### *Mental & Behavioral*

- Individual Therapy
- Case Management
- Behavior and Social Skills Groups
- Mental Health Consultation
- School Climate Program
- Student Leadership Group - 4th and 5th Graders

### *Environmental, Nutritional, & Physical*

- Garden Coordinator
- Nutrition Education
- Composting and Recycling
- Dental, Vision and Hearing Screenings
- On-site Nurse

## Program Coordination, Integration, Alignment & Shared Leadership

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- Weekly Coordinated Services Team Meeting
- Monthly Partner Collaborative Meeting
- Parent Teacher Association
- School Site Council
- English Language Learner Advisory Council
- Weekly Community School Leadership Meeting
- Bi-weekly Mental Health Collaborative Meeting
- Monthly Literacy Team Meeting
- Monthly Special Education Team Meeting
- Monthly Bilingual Team Meeting
- SFUSD Community School Incubator Initiative