

Claremont Middle School

5750 College Avenue Oakland, CA 94618 | <https://www.claremontms.org>

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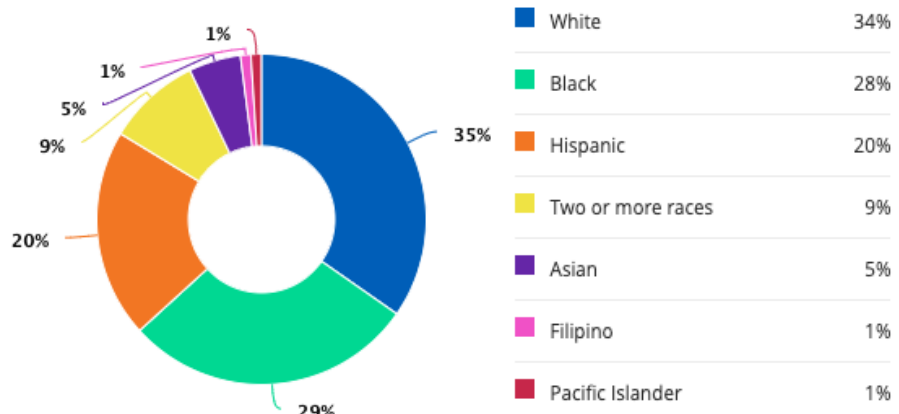
Overview

Mission/ Vision: We prepare students to leverage their grit to build academic stamina, while building bridges across differences to create positive change. We explicitly and continuously reinforce rigorous and relevant instruction within a compassionate, mindful and safe environment. We lead with learning as the main event, with equity at the center and student voice as the driving force. We inspire our students and staff to continuously find ways to work collaboratively, to spark curiosity for learning and to find joy in the process. Principal: Jonathan Mayer

Demographics:

Total # of Students	Under-Resourced Students	Dual/Multi Language	Equity Rating	Students to Teacher Ratio
485	41%	6%	3/10	18:1

Race/Ethnicity:



What Makes This School Unique

Claremont Middle School uses Ride for a Reason (R4R) funds to help supply teachers with noise-canceling headphones, to fund an online learning platform that enables students to learn how to code, and to purchase books for a unique book club that helps students who are reading below grade level. R4R is a fundraising ride sponsored by the Claremont Middle School PTA benefiting public schools in Oakland and Alameda. R4R is able to provide resources and experiences that without students would not have access to.



More than half of the students at Claremont also qualify and have access to free or reduced price lunches (meaning, these students come from families that are close to or below the poverty line).

School and Neighborhood History

Claremont Middle School, originally named [Claremont School](#), was built at the corner of College Avenue and Birch Street and opened in August of 1913 as an elementary school. The school was designed by John J. Donovan and Walter D Reed. It wasn't until 1925 that 7th and 8th grades were added. The elementary grades were then transferred to The Annex, Chabot School, when it opened in 1927. Soon after 1927 Claremont became Claremont Junior High. Then in the 1950s 28 classrooms, a cafeteria and gymnasium were added to the Claremont campus. The original school building was demolished in 1976 and all that remains from it are its historic gates. The gates were moved and are now located at the corner of Birch and College Avenue.

The [Ohlone and Chochenyo nations](#) inhabited the coastal region of Central and Northern California that includes Oakland.⁴ Due to [Spanish colonization of the Ohlone and Chochenyo lands](#), there was a drastic change and evolution of the region over the years that leads us to its physical layout today.

Claremont is located in the Elmhurst district which was named after the [groves of elm trees](#) that once covered the area. Real estate in Elmhurst was cheaper than in other parts of Oakland and this allowed workers in Oakland's canneries and factories the ability to enter the middle class and live in a more suburban environment. [During WWII, Elmhurst expanded](#) as the population of workers who moved to Oakland to work in defense plants and shipyards grew. Brookfield Village (west of the railroad tracks at 98th Ave) was developed in WWII as a planned community for defense workers. It included a shopping center, schools, and a park in addition to housing.

From the 1940s to the 1960s, Elmhurst was home to canneries, glass manufacturing plants, and die-casting businesses. After the war, many of these plants shut down or relocated to cheaper areas, resulting in significant unemployment. Additionally, during the 1960s to the 1980s, many residents from West Oakland who were displaced by Urban Renewal Projects (such as the Main Post Office and Grove Shafter Freeway) moved to Elmhurst. This resulted in an increase in the area's African American population. The area is home to a number of neighborhoods with close-knit communities, but continues to suffer from the challenge of persistent unemployment and its side effects.

Development: From the 1960s to the 1980s, many residents from [West Oakland](#) who were displaced by Urban Renewal Projects (such as the Main Post Office and [Grove Shafter Freeway](#)) moved to Elmhurst. This resulted in an increase in the area's African American population. The area is home to a number of neighborhoods with close-knit communities, but continues to suffer from the challenge of persistent unemployment and its side effects. Since the area first began to suffer from high unemployment, grassroots groups such as Beautiful Elmhurst Development, Urban Housing Institute of Oakland, East Oakland Community Corporation, [East Oakland Youth Development Center](#), Allen Temple, Center of Hope, and others have organized residents to lobby for change from the City and County while offering services for community members.

The Latino population has been growing in Elmhurst. Starting in the late 1980s and continuing into the 2000s, Latinos leaving the [Fruitvale District](#) or central part of [East Oakland](#) began moving to Elmhurst. Recent Immigrants from Mexico and Central America began moving, renting and buying houses in Elmhurst as many African American residents began moving out of Elmhurst and Oakland altogether. Many Latinos have moved into homes left by those who have moved out. Today half of Elmhurst's population is Latino.

Gentrification within the Neighborhood: [Gentrification](#) is a process that includes economic and demographic changes to historically disinvested neighborhoods. It's important to be aware of the process because new, affluent residents moving to a neighborhood for housing or business can contribute to significant increases in rent and real estate prices. These increases impact the most vulnerable and pressure low-income residents to meet the demand which alters their own household/family budget.⁶ Many Bay Area neighborhoods have [changed culturally and financially due to gentrification](#).

Elmhurst was originally a separate town, it was annexed by Oakland in 1909, and today is considered part of East Oakland. Although it was historically a white working-class neighborhood, it became predominantly African American after World War II, and today, Latinos now form about half of Elmhurst's population. Since the area first began to suffer from high unemployment, grassroots groups such as Beautiful Elmhurst Development, Urban Housing Institute of Oakland, East Oakland Community Corporation, [East Oakland Youth Development Center](#), Allen Temple, Center of Hope, and others have organized residents to lobby for change from the City and County while offering services for community members.

Endnotes:

1. <https://abitofhistory.website/?s=claremont+middle+school>
2. <https://native-land.ca>
3. [https://localwiki.org/oakland/History of Mexican and Latino Americans](https://localwiki.org/oakland/History_of_Mexican_and_Latino_Americans)
4. <https://web.archive.org/web/20090505132849/http://www.fopl.org/elmhurst.html>
5. <https://localwiki.org/oakland/Elmhurst#:~:text=During%20WWII%2C%20Elmhurst%20expanded%20as,defense%20plants%20and%20shipyards%20grew.&text=This%20resulted%20in%20an%20increase%20in%20the%20area's%20African%20American%20population.>
6. <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/gentrification-explained>
7. <https://metroideas.org/blog/gentrification-what-it-is-and-why-it-matters/>