

Frick United Academy of Language

2845 64th Avenue Oakland, CA 94605 | <https://www.ousd.org/frick>

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Overview

Mission/Vision:

FAMILY: FIA addresses the social and emotional needs of students by using the “it takes a village” concept. We partner with parents and see them as leaders to ensure that each student achieves success. Through our small learning communities (advisory structure) parents and teachers are mentors and advocates for students.

INNOVATE: FIA is dedicated to ensuring our students are able to succeed anywhere so we design learning experiences for students that challenge their thinking. Through cross-curricular collaborative experiences students will challenge and reimagine current systems that will impact generations to come.

ACTION: FIA students and staff are committed to annihilating the stereotypes that have historically plagued the youth of Oakland through advocacy, accessing power by exercising voice, self efficacy, and learning techniques necessary for making meaningful and lasting change.

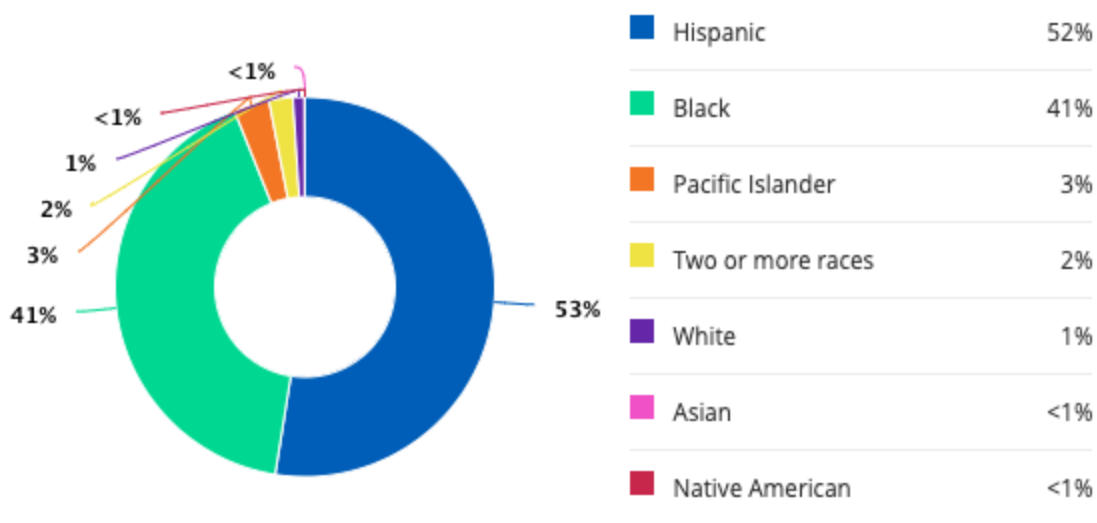
Frick Impact Academy Gladiators will act as agents of change by exploring an innovative, rigorous and responsive learning environment where they feel safe and confident to take risks, think critically, and navigate college, career, and life with success.

Principal: Amapola Obrera

Demographics:

Total # of Students	Under-Resourced Students	Dual/Multi Language	Equity Rating	Students to Teacher Ratio	Students: Counselor
231	95%	37%	2/10	23:1	205:1

Race/ethnicity:



What Makes This School Unique

The Design Team, composed of members of Frick Impact Academy and Oakland School of Language (SOL) school communities, worked tirelessly to create a new school with the best elements of both schools to provide a high quality and rigorous learning environment for middle students in East Oakland with a focus on bilingualism and biliteracy and social justice.

All students at Frick United Academy of Language will have the opportunity to study a second language. No matter the English and/or Spanish proficiency of our students, we offer an early start to bilingualism and biliteracy so that our students are prepared to graduate from High School with the State Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish. To address varying levels of language proficiency, Frick United Academy of Language offers five pathways which allow students to receive instruction suited to their needs.

Another essential component of Frick United Academy of Language is the focus on ensuring a nurturing environment guided by restorative justice practices and service learning. We offer a unique Advisory Program that focuses on learning and practicing social-emotional skills, developing a sense of self identity and cultural belonging, growing the ability and openness to interact across cultures, and recognizing and disrupting racial oppression.

Frick United Academy of Language offers new state-of-the-art facilities, from the athletic fields and courts to their comprehensive on-site health center with both physical and mental health services. Frick's student athletes train in game-time conditions with fields and courts fully dedicated to resemble match conditions. Available to all students, our health center employs regular medical staff who can see students during school hours and after school hours.

The school's strong partnerships help them to meet the unique needs of the students and families. Our partners are part of our school family and truly understand our students' needs.

Students and families coming to Frick United Academy of Language can expect to be supported through partnerships that will help them to achieve success.

School and Neighborhood History

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.

[Frick](#) is named after W.P. Frick who donated the lot where the school would be built on. It was built within the Lockwood District and on the Boulevard between Baker and Bay View which is now Foothill and 62nd. At first, the school taught kindergarten through seventh grade with only 8 rooms, then as population grew within the area, the school was declared a middle school in 1923. In 1927, a new school was built on the same land and was called Frick Jr. High School and in 1953, it was determined that the building exhibited earthquake risk. Therefore, the old building was demolished and a new building was constructed in 1960 and has been operating since.

Development: The Lockwood-Tevis neighborhood is home to the [Lockwood Gardens](#) development. Lockwood comes from a Mr. Lockwood, one of the trustees of the original school district. The original Lockwood School was started in 1858 by [Isaac Yoakum](#).¹ The school district was formed in 1860, with Yoakum, Lockwood, and LaGrange as the trustees.² Tevis probably comes from Tevis St., which is possibly named for L. Tevis, an early landowner in the area c.1884.

Lockwood opened in August of 1942. Originally designed for low-income families regardless of employment, they were converted for the use of families in the defense industry only. Lockwood is also known as the "6-5 Vill" (Village), and is one half of the "Vill." The other half of the "Vill" is the recently torn down 69th San Antonio Villas housing project, the 69th San Antonio Villas has since been remodeled into condominiums. Once an extremely unattractive housing project, the Oakland housing authority also remodeled Lockwood Gardens. However, unlike the 69th Vill, whose crime rate dropped after remodeling, these efforts have done little to thwart the crime that still plagues the 65th Vill.

The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) received five federal HOPE VI grants totaling \$83 million, enabling it to revitalize four large public housing sites and four small scattered sites. OHA's first HOPE grant was used to renovate one of OHA's original "war housing" developments, the 372-unit Lockwood Gardens, constructed in 1943. This was in 1994, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Gentrification: [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. Many Bay Area neighborhoods have [changed culturally and financially due to gentrification](#).

Urban renewal is another issue throughout Oakland. Urban Renewal is when left behind in central city neighborhoods, low-income households and communities of color bore the brunt of highway system expansion and urban renewal programs, which resulted in the mass clearance of homes, businesses, and neighborhood institutions, and set the stage for widespread public and private disinvestment in the decades that followed.

The Lockwood Gardens Federal Housing projects had policies that prevented People of color from being in the neighborhood. The policy of Lockwood Gardens stated: “No admittance to any minority groups”. People of color were impacted by the 1940/50s federal housing redlining policy that excluded communities of color from the wealth building opportunity of homeownership. However, the people of Oakland pushed back. Oakland was at the center of the general strike during the first week of December 1946, one of six cities across the country that experienced such a strike after World War II and marked the beginning of the labor movement.

In the 1960s, when massive demonstrations and civil unrest resulted in the Civil Rights Acts (which made it a federal crime to discriminate against someone based on their race, color, sex, religion, or national origin in employment and housing), Oakland was again at the center of change. Community groups born in the 1960s like the Black Panther Party, Oakland Community Organizations (PICO/OCO), Unity Council, Intertribal Friendship House and many others continued to organize and demand protections and equal access to jobs, housing, employment, transportation and services. These laws and policies helped people to address injustice at an individual level, but it was soon realized that more needed to be done to address the deep inequities created by years of blatantly discriminatory policies and practices and to change the systems that created oppression.

Endnotes:

1. <https://abitofhistory.website/tag/frick/>
2. <https://www.ousd.org/frick>
3. <https://www.greatschools.org/california/oakland/207-Frick-Middle-School/>
4. <https://abitofhistory.website/2020/06/06/lockwood-gardens/>
5. <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/oaklands-history-of-resistance-to-racism>
6. <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/gentrification-explained>