

Garfield Elementary School

1640 22nd Ave, Oakland, CA 94606 | <https://www.ousd.org/garfield>

1. Overview (pg 1)
 - a. Mission/Vision + Principal
 - b. Demographics
 - c. Race/Ethnicity
2. What Makes this School Unique (pg 2)
3. School and Neighborhood History (pg 2)
 - a. Development
 - b. Gentrification



Overview

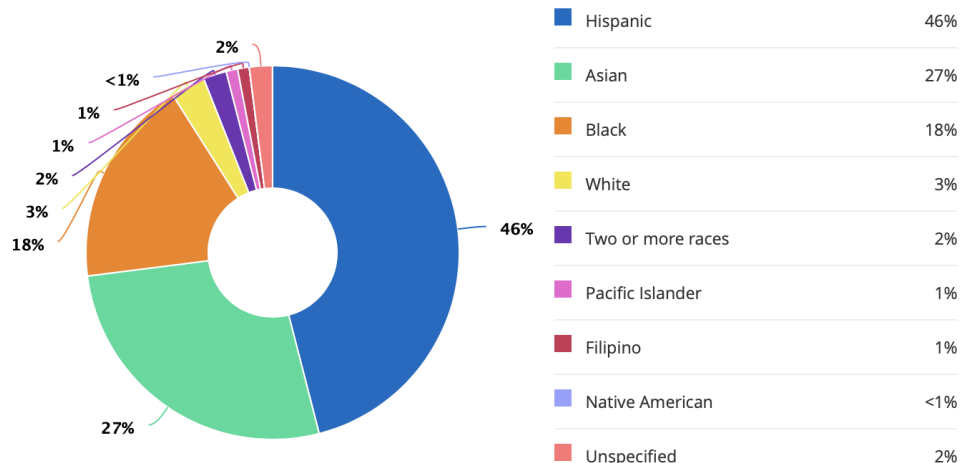
Mission/Vision: Garfield Elementary School's vision is that ALL Garfield students will grow into caring and creative adults prepared to graduate from college and succeed in life.

Principal: Edgar Ramirez-Rodriguez

Demographics:

Total # of Students	Under-Resourced Students	Dual/Multi Language	Equity Rating	Students to Teacher Ratio
668	92%	57%	2/10	18:1

Race/ethnicity:



What Makes This School Unique

[Garfield Elementary School](#) is one of the largest and oldest Elementary Schools in Oakland, located in the San Antonio District. It has been in existence circa 1928 and was named after the 20th President, James A. Garfield. He was the president, from March 4, 1881 until September 19, 1881. Currently, approximately 680 TK-5th grade scholars attend this school and are steadily rising to the top. Garfield Elementary School focuses heavily on literacy, including a focus on foundational literacy skills and evidence-based reading and writing. Teachers have received extensive training to address scholars' reading and writing needs by focusing on standards-based unit and lesson planning with a focus on weekly formative assessments. Along with a new mathematics curriculum and technological support, our scholars are being challenged on a new level to prepare them for the real world once they graduate high school. With the support from Garfield teachers, families and the East Bay Asian Youth Center after school program and parent center, Garfield students are receiving the attention they deserve in this fast paced society.



School and Neighborhood History

Garfield Elementary school was originally [Garfield Grammar School](#). The school opened in March of 1887 with two classes, the seventh and the eighth grades. The teachers were Miss Murray and Miss Ellen Gibbs. The school was named after the 20th U.S. President, James A. Garfield, who was assassinated in 1881. Garfield Grammar School was designed by John & T.D. Newsom (Newsom Brothers). In 1910 Miss Ellen Gibbs retired after 16 years as the principal of Garfield Grammar School. In 1926 a suspected arson fire destroyed the original school that was built in the 1890s. The school was a combined elementary and junior high. This was the fourth school to be destroyed by fire in nine months. A new Tudor style building was approved by the school board. The new three-building with 26 classrooms was designed by [Miller and Warnecke](#). Bids were then open to build a new school on the present site.

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.

Garfield is located in Oakland's San Antonio Neighborhood. San Antonio is a historical area was also known as the Peralta Ranch during the Mexican era of California. Luís María Peralta was awarded the Peralta Grant for his years of service in the Spanish Army, which included [44,800 acres of land](#), including the area encompassing San Antonio.

During the 1960's and 70's urban renewal period, the displacements of African Americans and Latinos from West Oakland brought many Black and Latino Families to settle into this neighborhood. It also sparked revolutionary movements during this time period like the Chicano movement to fight for their civil rights and self-determination and form different organizations such as The Chicano Revolutionary Party, Black Panthers, and *La Chispa*, a community newspaper. The Black Panthers formed a [Free Breakfast Program](#) at St. Augustine's Church that helped feed the minorities and poor youth in the city.

In the mid-70s, the *Oakland Tribune* called the area "primarily black, but shifted [in the 80's and 90's as Asian families started moving into the district](#). Soon, the *Tribune* reported that the area was a "new Chinatown." The San Antonio District was known as an [immigrant gateway](#) due to the increase of Latino immigrants, especially from Central America and Mexico between the 1980's and 2000's. This added even more diversity to the San Antonio neighborhood.

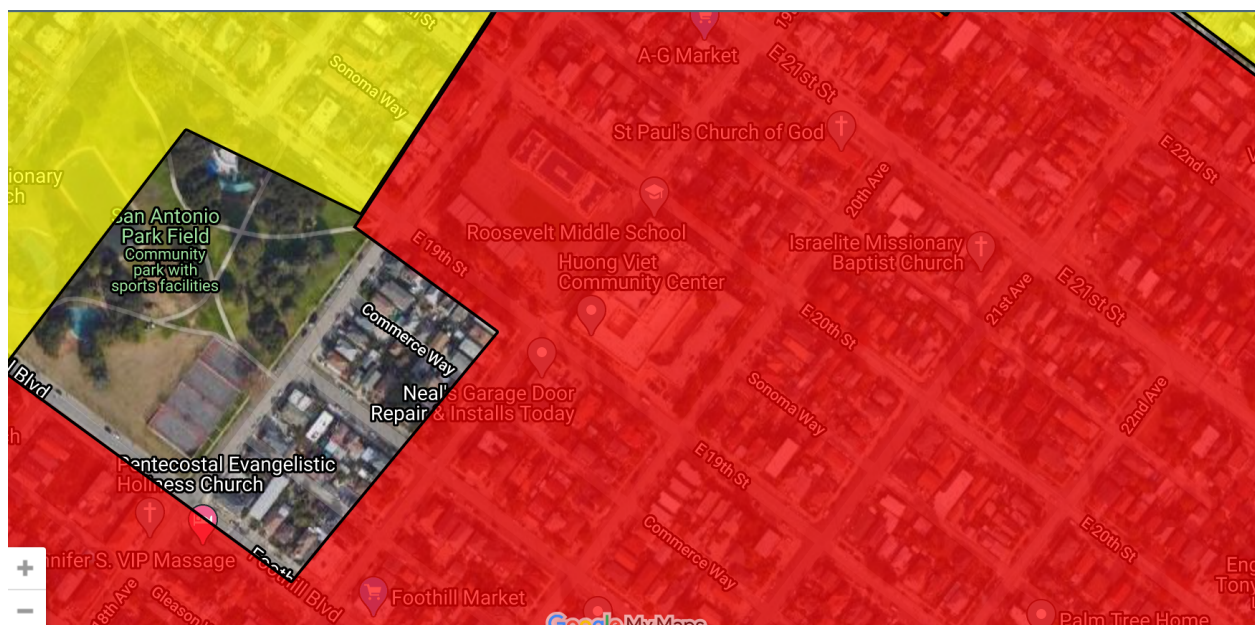
Development: In East Oakland, the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC) partnered with the San Antonio Community Development Center (SACDC), which had renovated an old firehouse and brought Headstart and financial literacy programs into the neighborhood. SACDC wanted to have commercial stores that would provide jobs on the ground floor of a new development project, as well as give input on the affordable housing. As a partner, SACDC shared in the development fees, did community outreach for the project, and gave the name of Hismen Hin-Nu to the 92 affordable apartments, townhomes and commercial storefronts, in recognition of the Muwekma peoples who originally lived in that part of East Oakland. EBALDC wanted to make sure that these new developments were open to and served everyone. They worked with local neighborhood institutions and ethnic newspapers to conduct affirmative marketing. Over time, the residents in all of their developments came



to reflect the populations in those neighborhoods, always with a diverse mix of ethnicities. As EBALDC began serving more diverse groups and cultures in their developments, their staff also began to reflect that diversity.

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](#).

The Area surrounding Garfield Elementary School includes small businesses and churches. The area has many residential homes around it, and it seems like an area which can be busy for a young child. Garfield is within a redlined zone in Oakland. This section is D10 and was originally composed of transportation, shopping centers, and schools. Residents of this neighborhood have limited access to a variety of healthful foods, since there are only a handful of markets and many fast food restaurants. The rapid gentrification of nearby Fruitvale, has also resulted in demographic shifts in San Antonio, increases in things like household income, real estate prices, and rent prices.



Endnotes:

1. <https://www.ousd.org/garfield>
2. [https://www.greatschools.org/california/oakland/209-Garfield-Elementary-School/#Equity overview](https://www.greatschools.org/california/oakland/209-Garfield-Elementary-School/#Equity%20overview)
3. <https://abitofhistory.website/?s=Garfield+elementary+school>
4. <https://native-land.ca/>
5. [https://localwiki.org/oakland/History of Mexican and Latino Americans](https://localwiki.org/oakland/History%20of%20Mexican%20and%20Latino%20Americans)
6. [https://localwiki.org/oakland/Miller and Warnecke](https://localwiki.org/oakland/Miller%20and%20Warnecke)
7. <https://metroideas.org/blog/gentrification-what-it-is-and-why-it-matters/>
8. <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/gentrification-explained>
9. [https://localwiki.org/oakland/Rancho San Antonio](https://localwiki.org/oakland/Rancho%20San%20Antonio)
10. [https://localwiki.org/oakland/Free Breakfast for Children Program](https://localwiki.org/oakland/Free%20Breakfast%20for%20Children%20Program)
11. [https://localwiki.org/oakland/Rancho San Antonio %28neighborhood%29](https://localwiki.org/oakland/Rancho%20San%20Antonio%20neighborhood)
12. <https://ousd.exposure.co/roosevelt-middle-school>