

Oakland High School

1023 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94610 | <https://www.ousd.org/oaklandhigh>

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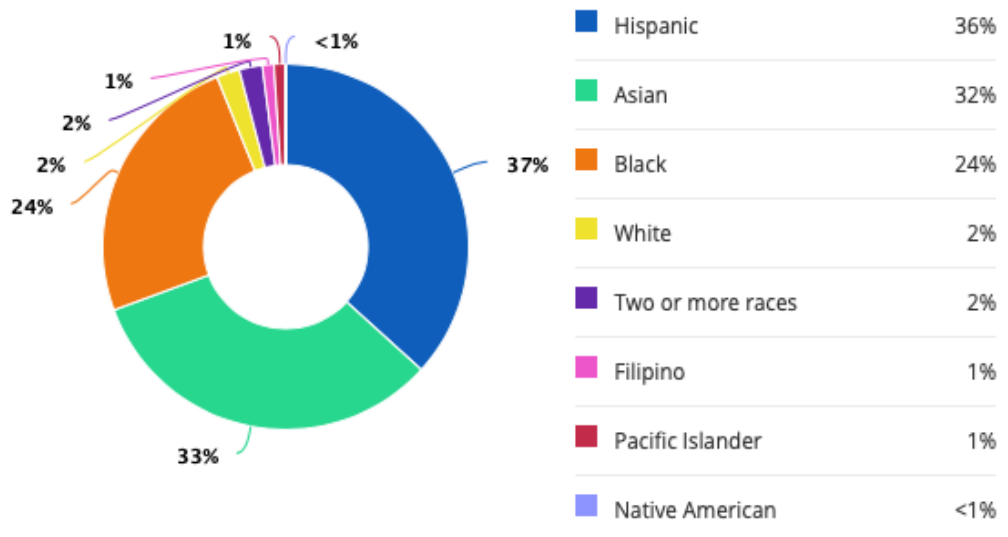
Overview

Mission/Vision: The mission of Oakland High School is to provide an excellent education to all students in a safe environment so that each student has a foundation for pursuing personal and social growth and high academic achievement. Principal: Pamela Moy

Demographics:¹

Total # of Students	Under-Resourced Students	Dual/Multi Language	Equity Rating	Students to Teacher Ratio	Students: Counselor
1,541	41%	N/A	3/10	20:1	525:1

Race/ethnicity:



What Makes This School Unique

[Oakland High School](#) has a dedicated, experienced team of teachers and administrators with deep roots in Oakland. The exceptionally diverse student population pulls from all areas of Oakland. Students have the opportunity to participate in a number of non-profit programs that are career and college focused. Oakland High School also offers Advanced Placement (AP) classes to help students prepare for college-level courses. Here are some of the programs offered to Oakland High School students:



- **On-site, non-profit Project Lead The Way Engineering (PLTW)** engages student interest in engineering and technology through an emphasis on college and career readiness skills including collaboration, creative problem solving, critical thinking, verbal and written communication, and scholarship.
- **On-site, no-cost AVID program** (which meets one period a day, every day) students learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers using the tutorial method, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college attainable, such as SAT prep and college tours.
- **On-site, no-cost Environmental Science Academy (ESA)** provides students with hands-on experience in the fields of Environmental Science, Marine Biology, Engineering, Medicine, and Humanities.
- **On-site, no-cost Public Health Academy (PHA)** prepares students to promote health equity in the communities they serve.
- **On-site, no-cost Law and Social Justice Program (LSJ)** informs and prepares students for careers in education, law, and community organizations with a focus on social justice and current events.
- **On-site, no-cost Visual Arts and Academics Magnet Program (VAAMP)** preparing students for careers in art through exposure to an array of art forms and mediums, and art concept integration in all subjects.

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.

Oakland High School, established in 1869, is Oakland's oldest high school (and one of the first high schools in California). The first building was formally dedicated on September 17, 1871. Located off of MacArthur and Park Boulevard, Oakland High School is just a short distance from Lake Merritt. Lake Merritt is a large tidal lagoon in the center of [Oakland, California](#), just east of [Downtown](#). It is surrounded by parkland and city neighborhoods. It is historically significant as the United States' first official wildlife refuge, designated in 1870, and has been listed as a [National Historic Landmark](#) since 1963, and on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) since 1966. A popular walking and jogging path runs along its Lake perimeter. This is also a spot where many gather for events such as, pop-up shops, food trucks, festivals, cultural events, such as Juneteenth, and more!

Lake Merritt, [the Jewel of Oakland](#) is a unique lake with freshwater and saltwater and the largest lake of its kind in an urban area. Lake Merritt was originally part of the San Francisco Bay until Dr. Samuel Merritt donated 155 acres to the Indian Slough (tributary to the Old River, an old channel of the San Joaquin River) and money to build a dam at the 12th Street Bridge. It became known as "Merritt's Lake" and later changed to Lake Merritt. This lake is also known as one of America's Oldest Protected Wildlife Refuge as it was declared by Dr. Samuel Merritt in 1869 and it remains a sanctuary stop for migratory birds. Islands with freshwater ponds were built for birds to land and be fed in order to ensure that other marine sports and activities were not disturbed.

Development: Over the years, Lake Merritt has undergone many redevelopment and revitalization efforts. On September 13, 2018, the BART Board approved staff's recommendation to select the developer team composed of the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC) and Strada Investment Group, to advance transit-oriented development at the Lake Merritt station.



The plan proposed by the EBALDC/Strada joint venture calls for four new buildings on BART-owned lots above the station. The proposal features 519 units of housing, 44% of which would be affordable, and 517,000 square feet of commercial space for offices and shops.

"Transit-Oriented Developments" maximize the amount of public transportation within walking distance of residential, business, and leisure spaces within neighborhoods. Lake Merritt's TOD project was introduced during the rise of urbanization which encouraged other urban projects across the United States.

The boom around Lake Merritt is due both to the city's multimillion-dollar cleanup of the 155-acre lake and an influx of San Francisco refugees. Oakland invested nearly \$200 million since 2002 into rehabilitating the lake, once a stinky, swamp pond filled with trash, bacteria and sewage. The lake is cleaner than it has been in decades. It's also maintained by the majority of existing residents, who are reflective of the neighborhood's Latinx culture.

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](#).

As Lake Merritt becomes an increasingly popular area in Oakland many new businesses try to keep up with the economic shift in the area. But the problem with a bunch of people with money showing up on our doorstep and pushing native Oakland residents out of their homes is distinctly a class issue. Whereas before locals could comfortably afford to rent or buy housing, all of a sudden they're too poor to live in the neighborhoods they've lived in for their whole lives. The housing market in the Bay Area is far ahead of the curve in terms of rising median house prices and rental rates, and in Oakland this is symptomatic of prosperity from across the bay.

Endnotes:

1. <https://www.ousd.org/domain/4772>
2. <https://www.movematcher.com/blog/changes-rent-oakland/>
3. <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Oakland-s-Lake-Merritt-drawing-new-residents-5752202.php>
4. <https://www.greatschools.org>
5. <https://oaklandplanninghistory.weebly.com/index.html>,
6. <https://abitofhistory.website/2019/11/01/then-now-oakland-schools-part-8/>
7. <https://native-land.ca/>

School and Neighborhood History:

[Find from the school website, <https://placesjournal.org/>, <https://oaklandplanninghistory.weebly.com/index.html>, etc.]