

Parker Elementary School

7929 Ney Ave, Oakland, CA 94605 | <https://www.ousd.org/parker>

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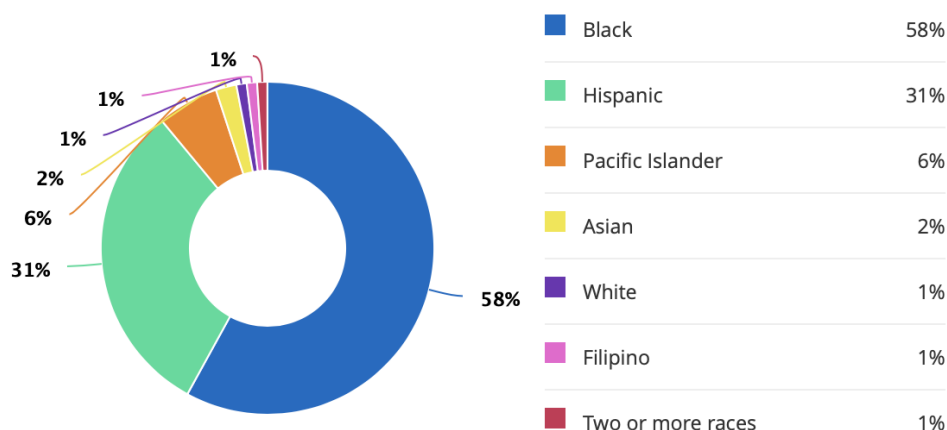
Overview

Mission/Vision: Parker's goal is to educate the whole child: Body, Mind, and Soul. The aim is to be a catalyst and foundation to equip generations with 21st century skills that will provide leadership for our community and positively impact the world. Parker strives to inspire students to explore the world around them by creating a safe environment so students can appreciate education. Differentiated learning helps all children gain the tools, skills, and resources necessary to understand and be successful members of society as they grow, mature, and develop. Principal: Roquel Colbert

Demographics:

Total # of Students	Under-Resourced Students	Dual/Multi Language	Equity Rating	Students to Teacher Ratio	Students: Counselor
300	92%	20%	2/10	19:1	N/A

Race/ethnicity:



What make this school unique

[Parker Elementary School](#) serves approximately 300 students in grades K-8. They celebrate the diversity of their school community and recognize their role as a school that complements and supplements the groundwork established in the first and primary place of education: the Home. Parker School seeks to further develop and enhance educational excellence by producing one focused scholar at a time. Parker is a community, in which teachers, staff, after-school staff, parents, and children all work together to develop a quality program for every child. Parker's programs emphasize good work ethics and responsibility, both social and academic. Parker teachers and staff models good leadership skills, empathy, and collaboration.



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 it's physical layout today. Parker Elementary School, originally named [Parker School](#), was built in April of 1948 after bids for a new two-story school at the corner of Ney Avenue and Ritchie Street. Parker School was to be the first permanent building to be constructed from the 1945 school bond. Dedication ceremonies to showcase students' work were held in November of 1949.

Parker Elementary is located in Oaklands Eastmont neighborhood. Eastmont is a [neighborhood](#) of Oakland in the [Elmhurst](#) district. The area was originally part of the Peralta ranch and later used as country homes for the Durant, Hellman Heron, Talbot and King families. Eastmont was developed in the 1920s, primarily after the [Chevrolet assembly plant](#) was built in 1916. At one point, a real estate company (the Minney Company) described Eastmont "The Piedmont of East Oakland." Workers moved to the area, taking over what had been small farms and building houses and commercial space. By the time the plant closed in 1963 and moved to Fremont, there were 3550 employees there. One subdivision in Eastmont, Columbia Park (not [Columbia Gardens](#)) was once known for its chickens! In 1922, the [Realty Syndicate](#) ran an ad for fertilizer based on the fact that chickens pooped so much there.

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](#).

Most homes concentrated in Coliseum and Eastmont, historic areas which saw the birth of [sideshows and hyphy](#) rap, movements which are considered integral to Oakland culture are up for grabs. Nearly half of the homes currently available are foreclosed — meaning their original owners were unable to keep up with their mortgage payments, resulting in the houses being auctioned off by lenders. Imbued with borderline predatory language, posts on these foreclosed houses urge potential buyers to “[get in while this area is still affordable](#)” and view it as an “investment opportunity.” In the East Oakland neighborhoods with these foreclosed homes up for auction, around 40% of the population live below the poverty line, according to [Zipatlas](#), which collects demographic information based on zip codes.

Endnotes:

1. <https://www.ousd.org/parker>
2. https://www.greatschools.org/california/oakland/249-Parker-Elementary-School/#Equality_overview
3. <https://abitofhistory.website/?s=Parker+elementary+school>
4. <https://native-land.ca/>
5. [https://localwiki.org/oakland/History of Mexican and Latino Americans](https://localwiki.org/oakland/History_of_Mexican_and_Latino_Americans)
6. <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/gentrification-explained>
7. <https://metroideas.org/blog/gentrification-what-it-is-and-why-it-matters/>