Overview

Mission/Vision: MPA's mission is to know all our students well, and in so doing, provide them with engaging opportunities for relevant, authentic, interdisciplinary project-based learning situations, both within and beyond our walls. MPA's vision is that our students graduate prepared for college and a career as innovative, creative problem solvers who demonstrate character and strive to build a more just community for themselves and others. Principal: Lucinda Taylor

Demographics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total # of Students</th>
<th>Under-Resourced Students</th>
<th>Dual/Multi Language</th>
<th>Equity Rating</th>
<th>Students: Teacher</th>
<th>Students: Counselor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>774</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>20:1</td>
<td>690:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Race/ethnicity:

Race/Ethnicity Demographics
What Makes This School Unique:

MPA is unique because it is almost 100% composed of students of color. MPA utilizes restorative practices to support their students' social-emotional needs being that they are located in a community, East Oakland, that experiences recurring traumas. Restorative practice. This makes the environment of MPA a friendly, safe area where students are guided on a path to success. MPA looks to improve the future for their students by lending a helping hand in regards to the counseling and mentoring. MPA also has a program which is called, “COST.” This additional program helps students by interpreting and assisting students with personal challenges and by referring them to specialists if needed. MPA has looked to stagger the drop off and pick times to ensure that there is a steady flow of traffic. The school's rigorous technological teachings aid students who look into the technology sector as their future career. MPA looks to help anyone in need which is why they have medical services on site. In 2017 MPA had their first high school graduating class with a 91% graduation rate which is an outstanding achievement.

Another organization that gives aid to MPA is, “buildOn” and they provide weekly volunteer opportunities for students, collaborate with teachers, and send students on international trips to build schools in developing countries. buildOn's mission is to bring change to disrupt the cycle of poverty, illiteracy and low expectations through service. Through community service students develop leadership skills and learn to change the fate of their lives and the people around them.

The 1958 bond issue completely paid for Sobrante Junior High School, their 27th project. This bond was issued since it was the second proposition on the 1958 ballot and it was voted in by the people. This gave two hundred and twenty million dollars in aid to build new schools or revamp existing locations.
On February 1, 1960, Sobrante Junior High School was opened. In May 1960, the school’s name was changed to James Madison Junior High School with approval from the Board of Education. The school had accommodations for approximately 800 students on 14 acres.

School and Neighborhood History:

The Ohlone and Chochenyo nations inhabited the coastal region of Central and Northern California that includes Oakland. 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.

Sobrante Park is a neighborhood located in East Oakland, California, which is partially separated from the rest of the city by two railroad tracks and San Leandro Creek. It was built shortly after World War II, first as a white-only Lockout and then gradually becoming a white flight red-zone in the mid to late 1950s, and in the early 1960s it became a working-class Black neighborhood. Sobrante Park is a mostly African-American and Latino neighborhood, with African-Americans forming 53.5%, and Latinos forming about 38%.

In the 1960s, Oakland had a surprising change in demographic development. There were differences mostly regarding race and economic equity. In the 1980’s the area was a hostile zone because of the drug trade and crime. Over time the crime in the area began to fade, but there were still issues for the citizens. The area surrounding the school has been a food desert historically. There are sections east of MPA which are redlined.

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sobrante_Park,_Oakland,_California