

Montera Middle School

5555 Ascot Drive, Oakland, CA 94611

<https://www.ousd.org/montera>

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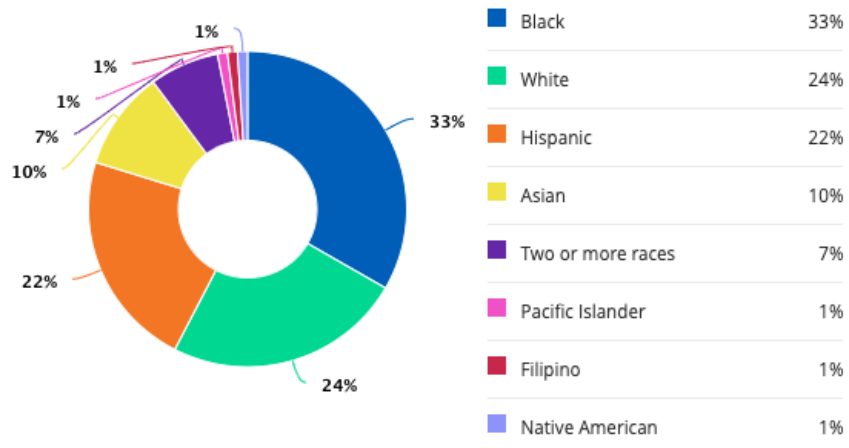
Overview

Mission/Vision: Montera Middle School aims to provide all students with a supportive environment and rigorous curriculum through which they develop into inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring lifelong learners utilizing their creative talents to help build a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. Principal: Darren Avent

Demographics:

Total # of Students	Under-Resourced Students	Dual/Multi Language	Equity Rating	Students to Teacher Ratio	Students: Counselor
727	54%	7%	2/10	19:1	823:1

Race/ethnicity:



What Makes This School Unique

Accomplishments

Montera Middle School is a California Distinguished school, and is currently the only Oakland Middle School to earn that distinction. Once, students at the school participated in the Oakland A's Home Run Readers Program and earned a field trip to an A's game.

Woodworking

Though for the safety of all the students, it is better to go to school at home, it is worth noting that Montera has one of the only Woodworking Workshops on a school campus. They offer a unique course for the craft at the school.

Internationally-Minded

Montera Middle School is an Official International Baccalaureate Candidate School. The International Baccalaureate, or IB Program is a rigorous class program that emphasizes an international education, and has a very diverse student body.

Involvement

Montera hosts a very robust Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) that aims to one day get 100% of Montera parents participating. The PTO is dedicated to raising the quality of life of the students with fundraisers. The staff also remains engaged with the parents and students by way of the weekly bulletin, which keeps both informed about the going ons at the school.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Montera has been very on top of the COVID situation for the sake of its students. It is participating in the Oakland Undivided Tech Check, and is using many online systems to keep both students and teachers engaged with the content in class: Schoology, Google Classroom and Aeries.

School and Neighborhood History

Montera Middle School was originally named Joaquin Miller Junior High, but because the name was so similar to Joaquin Miller Elementary School, it changed to Montera in 1959. It became a [California Distinguished School](#) in 2011, a distinction awarded to public schools by the California State Board of Education for exceptional and quality education programs. For over 50 years, Montera celebrates the teaching to children the arts of woodcraft due it being the only Oakland Middle School to remain with it's woodshop.

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.

Montera Middle School is located within the Shepherd Canyon neighborhood, which is the broader Joaquin Miller area. The neighborhood is named after the Shepherd Family who owned about 200 acres and lived there from about [1875 to the early 1900s](#). The broader area is named for [Cinninatus Hiner "Joaquin" Miller](#), a pony-express rider, lawyer, judge, teacher, gold prospector, nomad, author, and landowner in the area. In 1919, the Oakland Parks Department purchased approximately 68 acres from Miller's estate and today, Joaquin Miller Park covers more than 500 acres.

Shepherd Canyon also connects to Montclair land where both are known for it's for [railroads, evolving transportation needs, urban planning, and the hills shaping it's neighborhood identity](#). First, the history of Interurban Railroads (Ex. Electric railway with streetcar) which differs to the evolving changes of urban transportation of the automobile. This change brought the Sacramento Northern Railroad to an end which meant potential for the increase of highways. CALTRANS bought the railroad and land, they viewed Shepherd Canyon as a prime location for Highway 77 where it was planned to extend from Park Boulevard, with a cloverleaf at Highway 13, through Shepherd Creek near Scout Road, then joining the former Sacramento Northern railroad right of way along Shepherd Canyon Road, and heading out to the Orinda, Walnut Creek area. This was planned before BART's operating existence yet, the planning of Highway 77 occurred when the huge discussion and interest in alternatives modes of transportation where BART became a solid project. Therefore, the Highway 77 plans did not further out to preserve Shepherd Canyon, this project is known to be one of the largest undeveloped areas in Oakland.

Development: Due to cancellation of the Highway 77 project plan, CALTRANS needed to either sell or do something with the land they bought. To prevented disorganized development, this commenced the [Shepherd Canyon Corridor Plan](#) where residents worked with CALTRANS and the City of Oakland. The plan allowed the City of Oakland to conduct its first Environmental Impact Reports (EIR's) in California. The result of the Shepherd Canyon Corridor Plan resulted in the Shepherd Canyon Road, then called upper Park Boulevard, and Shepherd Canyon Park that includes a soccer field and a much larger Resource Conservation area. Shepherd Creek also stands as it was saved from the development of highways.

Endnotes:

1. <https://abitofhistory.website/2020/01/29/then-now-oakland-school-part-16/>
2. <https://native-land.ca>
3. https://localwiki.org/oakland/History_of_Mexican_and_Latino_Americans
4. <https://abitofhistory.website/tag/shepherd-canyon/>
5. <http://www.fojmp.org/history/>
6. <http://www.montclairrtrail.org/trail-history.html>