

Mid-cycle Visiting Committee Summary Report

**ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS
WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

FOR

EAST NICOLAUS HIGH SCHOOL

**2454 Nicolaus Avenue
Nicolaus, California 95659**

East Nicolaus Joint Union High School District

October 2 to 4, 2017

May 8-10, 2022

Visiting Committee Members

Kim Dieter, Chair
Teacher, Herlong High School

Toby Barnmeyer
English Teacher, Bear River High School

SUMMARY

East Nicolaus High School is located in rural south Sutter County approximately 20 miles north of Sacramento and 20 miles south of Yuba City. Approximately 300 students attend the high school, a number that has remained constant. ENHS is the only campus in the East Nicolaus Joint Union High School District. The high school is a District of Choice School and attracts students from nine different school districts and three K-8 feeder schools.

Approximately 65.10% of the students are white, 24.16% hispanic, 5.70% multi-ethnic, 2.01% Asian, 1.34% black, .67% American Indian/Alaska Native, .67% Pacific Islander, and .34% Filipino. During 2021-22, 18% of the students participated in the Free and Reduced Lunch program.

Currently, 283 students attend the regular high school program, five are enrolled in short term independent study and ten in long term independent study.

The most recent CAASPP data is from 2018-19. Few students took the CAASPP tests until the spring of 2021-22, when over 95% of the students completed the tests.

Academic Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
ELA	63%	63%	57%
Math	29%	31%	20%

Many staff changes have occurred since the last WASC visit in October 2017. Superintendent/Principal Mary Lynch was replaced by Mark Beebe. Neil Stinson, a former teacher and administrator at ENHS, assumed the position of Superintendent for the 2021-22 school year. Jake Geivett returned to ENHS in January to fill the position of Principal. Preet Cheema returned to serve as the Director of Student Guidance. Ten of the 21 certificated staff have taught at ENHS for less than two years. Of the total 13 classified staff, six have been employed at the high school for less than three years.

The School Site Council has been reactivated and elections were held earlier in the year. However, as of this report date, the Site Council does not meet on a regular basis.

East Nicolaus High School became a BARR Center in 2020-21. The 9th grade students are the area of focus. Goals include closing the opportunity gap, improving academic outcomes and increasing the graduation rate. BARR services include training, on-site and virtual coaching, membership, resources and data support.

Work based learning (WBL) at ENHS is funded through the K12 Strong Workforce Program. ENHS has been awarded five K12 SWP grants totaling almost \$2 million. The CTE tracks include: Academic, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation: Food Tech, and Industrial Arts Technology. The WBL Coordinator works with five CTE teachers and three administrators and focuses on the junior and senior class students. WBL offers guest speakers, college and industry tours and job shadowing opportunities. The ENHS library is being transformed into the Spartan Success Center. Beginning in the fall 2022, the center will hold the classes and offices of the WBL Coordinator and CTE Career teachers. It will be a technology center and offer career and college planning resources for all students. During the spring semester 2022, a CTE Internship Class is being piloted to provide students with the opportunity to explore a career pathway in depth with a combination of in-class and on-the-job experiences.

East Nicolaus High School has made several facility improvements over the past three years. These improvements include remodeling the Culinary Arts room and completely refurbishing the Ag Mechanics Shop. A facelift for the gym has been completed. All lighting and four HVAC units were replaced and updated throughout campus.

Originally, Measure M, a Sutter County growth initiative approved by voters, estimated 17,000 new homes would be built in the school district. The project has been scaled down to 3000 housing units that will increase the ENHS enrollment by about 400 students over the next ten years. The district recently approved a Facilities Master Plan which addresses the future needs of the growing community.

From conversation, it appears a majority of the Mid-Cycle Progress report was written by the principal, Jacob Geivett. Staff had little input into the progress report.

During the 2017 Self-Study, ENHS identified three schoolwide action plans.

#1: ENHS will implement California standards with fidelity in core content areas and offer a broad course of study with benchmark assessments to guide instructional decisions.

The math department has created a placement test for incoming students and common math assessments. The department met with the three local feeder schools to articulate math classes. Math teachers collaborated to be sure they focus on essential standards. The science teachers have collaborated about the newly adopted science textbooks to align the general science and ag science curriculum.

#2: Provide additional instructional support for staff and students with professional development in California standards and benchmark assessments.

School staff may request specific professional development opportunities. If the staff member and administration agree the professional development will be beneficial, the professional development activity will be scheduled. Staff have participated in a variety of professional development activities including ag department conferences, science textbook and curriculum training, BARR training/conferences, AERIES training, and administrator training and conference.

Professional development in California standards and benchmark assessments has not been provided.

#3: Foster positive relationships with staff, students, parents and the community.

Over the past three years, ENHS has focused on creating a positive climate and culture. The climate and culture has remained relatively positive through the challenges of Covid -19. Activities to foster positive relationships include a “happy room” for students to calm down and focus, rallies, karaoke Fridays at lunch, drawings, incentives, and class meetings. The addition of the school counselor and WBL learning coordinator have increased opportunities for students.

In addition, the Visiting Committee identified areas for improvement.

Provide more time for departmental collaborations in math, ELA, science and history.

Minimum days and five professional development days are built into the school calendar to serve as collaboration time for teachers. However, there is limited collaboration in each of the subject areas.

Schedule more frequent, formal staff meetings to improve communication between administration and staff.

During the 2021-22 school year, staff meetings were held once a month for 30 minutes.

Need for staff collaboration and development of local benchmarks to assess yearly progress for all students in core subject areas.

Benchmark assessments have been partially developed for math. Benchmark assessments have not been developed for other subject areas.

Increase availability of technology on campus for student and staff use, with increased training opportunities for staff.

Staff received new teacher laptops and all students received a district issued Chromebook. The district has offered Google training to staff members. All servers on campus were upgraded and the bandwidth was upgraded.

Schoolwide Strengths

- 1 . ENHS embraces a strong sense of community that is pervasive throughout the parental, staff, and student populations.
- 2 . ENHS promotes a community and family environment including a caring and professional staff, and safe, clean, and orderly facilities conducive to student learning.
3. Offers a multitude of educational opportunities for students to connect to school in a meaningful way through the Work Based Learning program and a variety of CTE offerings.
4. Strong student programs such as FFA and sports that drive student engagement.

Growth Areas for Continuous Improvement: The visiting committee concurs with the school's identified areas for growth:

- 1 . Implement California standards with fidelity in core content areas and offer a broad course of study with benchmark assessments to guide instructional decisions.
- 2 . Provide additional instructional support for staff and students with professional development in California standards and benchmark assessments.
3. Provide more time for departmental collaboration, staff meetings, and development of local student assessments in core content areas in order to gauge student understanding. Consider weekly staff collaboration.

Additional Areas for Growth:

- 1 . With input from teachers, classified staff, parents and community members, create a Schoolwide Action Plan that closely addresses ENHS needs and the critical areas for follow-up from the Visiting Committee Report. Regularly monitor the progress of the Action Plan.
- 2 . Explore the development of a new teacher mentoring program to provide support for new teachers. Consider implementing teacher mentoring into weekly collaboration.
3. Ensure a fully-functioning Site Council to oversee the LCAP and Schoolwide Action Plan.
4. Increase the collection and use of assessment data to drive student instruction.
- 5 . Fully develop current CTE pathways and explore additional dual-enrollment opportunities with local community colleges to expand opportunities for students.