



Claremont Middle School: Myths & Facts

Published in 2009 by the
Chabot PTA Middle School Committee
[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/
chabotmscommittee/](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/chabotmscommittee/)

Myth #1

Disruptive students cause major problems in the classroom, on the yard and in the neighborhood.

"I'm new at Claremont and the thing I like most are all my teachers. They are all great and explain the work very well. The principal, Ms. Crockett, is very strict, but that's what a school needs. The students are great, too."

--Jaeden, CMS student

Fact #1

Students, parents, teachers, neighbors and local retailers report that the climate has improved dramatically this year. **New discipline policies are in place and are working.**

"The difference this year just in terms of student activity on the street is spectacular!"

*--David Finder, Owner,
Red Hound, College Avenue*

New Principal Kenya Crockett and Vice Principal Kevin Taylor are committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment that will educate the whole child with an emphasis on academics, character and social preparation.

"Claremont Middle School is a wonderful small school where mostly everyone knows each other. It's easy to make friends here because everyone is very diverse, interesting and gregarious. Students here are also very intellectual, so discussions in classes often amaze parents—that we think so profoundly at such young ages. Claremont has really rigorous standards for students to succeed, not only in middle school but also later in college."

--Tammy, CMS student

With the school's new open-door policy, the administration and parents can walk the halls and see students paying attention and learning. CMS enforces a zero-tolerance policy against weapons, drugs and violence of any kind.

At lunch recess, parent volunteers hand out sports equipment for students to use on the yard, and there is a parent-led effort to engage Playworks, a nonprofit organization that improves learning by providing and organizing play at recess.

Myth #2

Academically, Claremont does not have what my student needs.

Fact #2

Claremont has made huge academic strides in recent times.

While test scores are only part of the story, the school's Academic Performance Index (API) score increased by 90 points between 2008 and 2009, far exceeding the targeted nine-point improvement. Principal Kenya Crockett is implementing systems and programs with a stated goal of reaching an API of 800+ this school year.

Holding all stakeholders accountable, including students, teachers, administration and families, is a key philosophy of the CMS leadership.

- Sixth and 7th graders take part in Si-Swun Math, a program that has significantly increased the percentage of proficient and advanced math students in other Oakland schools.
- Building on the success of last summer's Algebra Academy, Claremont has launched gender-based math classes

for 8th graders; studies have shown that such classes result in improved learning and higher grade point averages for both boys and girls.

- Programs are in place to challenge advanced math students, such as the opportunity to take Geometry at Oakland Tech.
- A 30-minute daily homeroom curriculum teaches fundamental study skills such as note-taking and organizing.
- Language Arts will continue to challenge all levels of students via a multitude of differentiated strategies, including guided group instruction, reciprocal teaching and newly acquired AVID principles, in addition to other tried and tested instructional pedagogy.
- Under Principal Crockett's leadership, activities are under way to encourage more CMS students to plan for college, via field trips, visits from universities and info events.

"We are parents of a sixth grader at Claremont, and so far, our son loves school. He enjoys his classes, likes and respects his teachers, and feels that he is learning and being challenged."

*– Chan U Lee and Patrick Zak,
parents of a Chabot alum*

"I like how the teachers believe that you can do all of the things you put your mind to. I love how they help you to achieve your goals in all ways possible."

--Angelica, CMS student

Myth #3

Claremont is too small to provide students with many enrichment options.

Fact #3

Claremont IS small (fewer than 400 students), and research indicates that **small schools provide better learning environments.**

Among the range of enrichment options:

- An award-winning music program that gives kids the opportunity to study instruments and perform in the band, jazz band or orchestra.
- MATHCOUNTS, a national math competition that provides middle school students with a foundation for success in science, technology and engineering careers.
- A free, grant-funded after-school program where kids do homework and engage in organized enrichment activities and sports.



- Overnight educational field trips to the Marin Headlands (6th grade) and Yosemite (7th grade).
- A comprehensive sports program will continue to be offered at Claremont. In addition, wrestling for both boys and girls is offered via the after-school program.
- A state-of-the-art Digital Media Lab with 21 iMacs and 24 high performance PCs, built with donations and sweat equity from CMS parents and community members. During the 2008-2009 pilot, more than 100 students took electives in 3D modeling and animation, and others studied audio production, film editing and multimedia after school. Today, Project Seven, a PTA initiative, is seeking funding to strengthen this digital arts program and continue it through high school.

“One of the things I like at Claremont is computer animation. It’s very fun, and it’s also cool to think that I’m using the same software as Pixar.”

--Sasha, CMS student

“[My son] loves grades and really strives to do 100% at CMS. He took Algebra in 7th grade, one year ahead of district and California standards. He is taking Geometry at Oakland Tech during the zero period. This has been a huge boost to his ego and self esteem.”

--Ron Kriss, parent of a Chabot alum

“Claremont Middle School is a fun and educational place. I like the way respect is valued and everybody respects everybody. I like all my teachers because they really want to help everybody. Their goal is to brighten our futures, and make us all succeed. Our campus is a cool place. There is so much going on and we are all a part of it.”

--Aseel, CMS student

For More Information

Visit CSM Online

www.claremontms.org

Tour the School

Vice Principal Kevin Taylor leads tours of Claremont every Friday at 9:30 am

Have Coffee with Kenya

Principal Kenya Crockett hosts a coffee from 8 to 9 am on the first Wednesday of each month

Subscribe to the Knightline

A free weekly email bulletin about Claremont news and events

www.claremontms.org/Claremontms/Broadcast.html

Learn About Project Seven

A PTA initiative to strengthen Claremont's digital arts program

www.projectseven.org

Join the Claremont Boosters

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/ClaremontBoosters/