

# Thompson Middle School 2008

A California Distinguished School

## Support Personnel Accountability Report Card

**Dale Velk, Principal**  
**Grades 6-8**  
**Enrollment: 1746**

**24040 Hayes Ave. Murrieta, Ca. 92562**  
**(951) 696-1410 www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/thompson**

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### Principal's Message

Thompson Middle School's Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) plays an essential role in providing a safe school environment that promotes the academic and personal excellence of every student. By committing themselves to the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Standards; our counselors create a positive atmosphere dedicated to helping all students achieve their maximum potential. Our guidance program supports the whole child by providing the necessary skills for personal and social development, academic success, and career planning. In support of AB1802, counselors hold parent conferences and student seminars. Our SPARC is reviewed by our School Site Council and is incorporated into our School Site Plan. The implementation of SPARC has helped us validate our commitment to high standards. We are a safe community of learners largely due to the support provided to our students and families by our caring educators. I commend them for their leadership and dedication, providing essential services and creating a caring culture on our campus.

### Student Support Personnel Team

Student success requires a coordinated effort from all SSPT members. We strive to provide all students equitably access to programs that support the development of academic, interpersonal, and communication skills; in order to achieve success in school and develop into contributing members of society. Our counselors work collaboratively with teachers and staff at Thompson Middle School to design, implement, coordinate, and evaluate sequential guidance curriculum based on the National Standards.

Certificated Staff				
Counselor	Eileen Ponce	MS; PPS-CWA	Over 170 years combined experience in education	
Counselor	Elijah Anderson	MS; PPS-CWA		
Counselor (50%)	Sue Alderson	MS; PPS-CWA		
Counselor (50%)	Sharon Tucker	MS; PPS-CWA	Languages spoken: Spanish, Tagalog, Greek	
School Nurse	Barbara Shuman	MSN; PHN; SHC		
School Psychologist	JJ Jaeger	Ed.S; PPS-SP; CTR	Classified Staff	
Speech Therapist	Nila Aguilar	Ph.D; CCC	Guidance Technician	Paula Smith
RSP Teacher	Christine Demetron-Hodges	MS	Guidance Technician	Connie Spencer
RSP Teacher	Alex Diaz	MS	Health Clerk	Dena Lopez
RSP Teacher	Lanka Price	MS	Attendance Clerk	Carmen Villalobos
PFPC Coordinator	Annette Gross	MS	Librarian	Barbara Vogel
ELL Coordinator	Gabriela Luebeck	BA	Community Support	
PFPC Coordinator	Alison Speights	BS	School Resource Officer	Todd Felicia

M.S.- Master of Science; P.P.S.- Pupil Personnel Services; CWA- Child Welfare and Attendance; SP- School Psychology; M.S.N.- Master of Science, Nursing; P.H.N.-Public Health Nurse; S.H.C.- School Health Credential; Ed. S.- Educational Specialist; CTR- Critical Trauma Response; Ph.D.- Doctorate of Philosophy; C.C.C.- Certificate of Clinical Competence; B.A.- Bachelor of Arts; B.S.- Bachelor of Science; RSP- Resource Specialist Program; PFPC- Peers for Positive Change; ELL- English Language Learners

**Membership includes:** ASCA- American School Counselor Association; CASC- California Association of School Counselors; SWRCC- Southwest Riverside County Counselors; ACSA- Association of California School Administrators; CSNO- California School Nurse Organization; SBRNSO- San Bernardino Riverside School Nurse Organization; ASCP- American Society of Clinical Pathology; ASLHA- American Speech, Language and Hearing Association; NASP- National Association of School Psychologists; CARS- California Association of Resource Specialists; CADA- California Activities Director Association

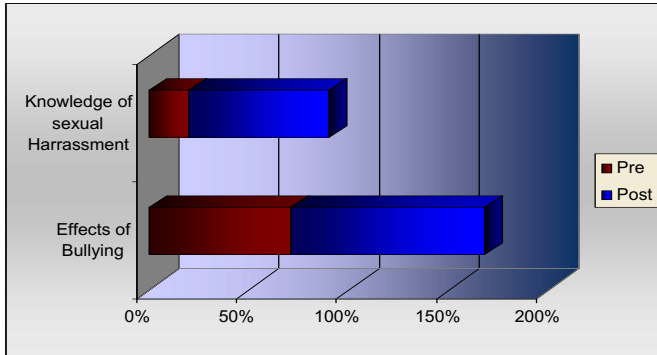
*Murrieta Valley Unified School District*  
*To inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, to care*

# School Climate and Safety

The relationship between student support services and school climate and safety is critical. The team realizes that academic achievement increases when students feel safe and respected at school. Our team is committed to finding ways to enhance our positive school climate. Our SSPT strives to keep the school safe and assure students feel connected to school through numerous programs and interventions. Our team coordinates and implements school-wide programs such as Peers for Positive Change (a club focusing on character education), 40 Developmental Assets, Project Alert, PLUS (Peer Leaders Uniting Students) Forums, individual and group counseling, College Night, and vision, hearing and scoliosis screenings. We offer gender specific classes to give students an optional learning environment.

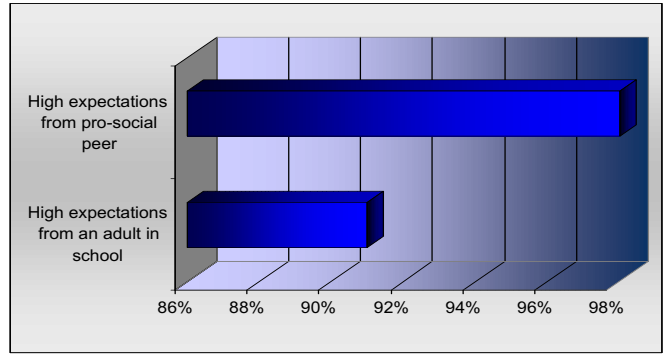
Each grade level participated in guidance lessons related to bullying and harassment. 8th grade students demonstrated increased knowledge and understanding of sexual harassment and the effects of bullying as demonstrated in the graph below.

**Harassment Guidance Lesson**



Our district passionately implements the 40 Developmental Assets philosophy. The SSPT strives to develop relationships with all students to support positive peer relations. The number of positive responses from the Spring 2006 Healthy Kids Survey indicates the success in this endeavor.

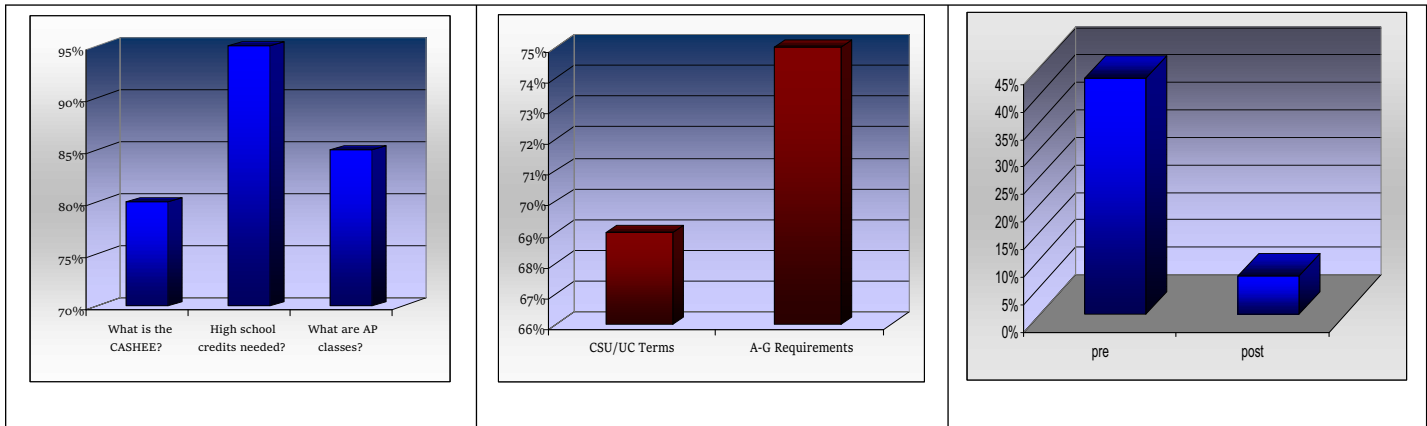
**External Assets: School and Peer Expectations**



# Student Results

Our counseling department strongly supports the use of student results-based counseling. Efforts by the SSPT have made a positive impact on student success. To ensure student success it is critical to evaluate programs to determine effectiveness. Student results are a vital component of the accountability system within our program. The results below indicate the exceptional level of commitment put forth by all SSPT members who work collaboratively to ensure student success.

<b>Academic Domain</b>	<b>Career Domain</b>	<b>Personal/ Social Domain</b>
<p><i>Standard A: Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span.</i></p> <p>All seventh grade students participated in a guidance lesson related to high school graduation requirements. Students were given a pre-test and post-test to measure what they learned from the lesson. The chart below demonstrates their understanding of high school graduation requirements after the lesson.</p> <p><b>High School Preparation</b></p>	<p><i>Standard A: Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.</i></p> <p>Students participated in a lesson to introduce them to terms regarding college. The chart below demonstrates their understanding of basic terms related to college acceptance as they move through the high school system.</p> <p><b>College Preparation</b></p>	<p><i>Standard A: Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.</i></p> <p>Each grade level viewed and discussed a different video related to bullying, asserting oneself or sexual harassment. Students were then asked if shouting at someone was being assertive. Before the lesson 43% of students believed it was. After the lesson, only 7% still believed that shouting was asserting oneself.</p> <p><b>Assertive vs Aggressive Lesson</b></p>



## Major Achievements

Our SSPT is proud to play a significant role in the accomplishments of our students at Thompson Middle School. We are committed to the consistent growth in our services, continually fostering relationships that lead to advancement in services provided to students, families, and our community. We are dedicated to aligning our program to the National Standards. We use our outcome data to review our progress, evaluate our programs, and make adjustments.

Awarded *California Distinguished School* in 2001 and again in 2005.

The SSPT was crucial to attaining both awards, being actively involved in many of the programs acknowledged in the application.

1<sup>st</sup> MVUSD school with a chapter in the *National Junior Honor Society*.

The NJHS recognizes students for outstanding achievement in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

District counselors collaborated to create a standard document for use when implementing *AB1802*.

TMS is 100% compliant for all at-risk 7<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Thompson Middle School has maintained an *API score* over 800 for the last 4 years.

The SSPT has been instrumental in this achievement.

Our SSPT has implemented a successful program for *student transition* for both incoming and outgoing students.

SSPT members visit all feeder elementary schools to talk with incoming students. Members also work closely with the counselors from the high schools to assure a seamless transition into high school.

## Measurements

Working toward a comprehensive and coordinated school counseling program, the SSPT uses a broad array of measurements to evaluate, organize, and manage our student support program. The data is reviewed regularly to assure our prompt and appropriate response to meet the needs of all students and their families.

### Academic:

*California Content Standards Test (CST)*: Academic measurement used for appropriate program placement and intervention

*Mathematical Diagnostic Test Program (MDTP)*: Developed by the University of California, assists advanced math placement

*Progress Reports*: Mailed to parents every six weeks, used to evaluate progress

*End of Course Exams (ECE)*: District exams used to help determine program placement and intervention

*California English Language Development Test (CELDT)*: Measures English language proficiency, assists program placement

*Special Education Assessment*: Includes psychological, academic and speech to determine appropriate placement and needed support

### Career:

*Holland Inventory*: Assists students in exploring and planning for their future

*Learning Style Inventory*: Provides students with information about their personality and learning style

*California Career Zone*: Student website which provides information on Holland's Career Types, Industry Sectors, and a "Reality Check"

### Personal/Social:

*Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)*: Measurement of student health, resiliency and identification of barriers to academic success

*Health Screening*: Vision, hearing, and scoliosis screening for student health

*Student Survey*: Data from the survey helps to direct efforts and identify areas of need

## Community Partnerships and Resources

Our student support team collaborates with a growing number of agencies and programs in order to meet the personal, career, and social needs of our students; aligning with the National Standards of School Counseling. Our work with community partners supports and enhances the delivery of our program, providing a multitude of resources, experiences, and support. These partnerships are essential to maintain a comprehensive counseling program.

Academic:

National Junior Honor Society  
 Johns Hopkins Talent Search  
 University of California, Irvine Talent Search  
 Region P Middle School Partnership  
 Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)  
 Oak Grove Institute

Career:

California State University, San Marcos  
 California State University, San Bernardino  
 Mt. San Jacinto College  
 California Career Resource Network  
 California Student Aid Commission

Personal/Social:

ADHD Solutions Center  
 Hospice of the Valleys  
 MVUSD Parent Center  
 Murrieta Police Department  
 SAFE Alternatives for Everyone  
 Search Institute  
 Temecula Valley Assistance League

## Volunteer Involvement

We recognize that parent involvement is one of the most important factors in a child's success. We value and welcome our parents support and involvement. The services they provide have a clear and direct impact on the success of the SSPT and our students.

*Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA):* Parents support and plan school activities such as Red Ribbon Week and the Book Fair

*School Site Council:* parents meet regularly to review and support school-wide programs

*Summer Orientation:* Parents assist with the implementation each year, allowing students to successfully transition to their new school

*Special Education Parents Awareness Committee:* Provides information on current and relevant issues

*Promotion:* Parents are a crucial element to the success of our promotion activities each year.

We are always looking to increase parent involvement. Parents are enthusiastically encouraged to become involved. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact our site secretary Diana Jackson 951-969-1410 ex 4597 or email [djackson@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:djackson@murrieta.k12.ca.us)

## Focus For Improvement

Consistent with our commitment to provide a comprehensive program; and in alignment with our school's improvement plan; our SSPT is passionately committed to the continuous advancement of services for all students. We strive to sustain and advance academic and personal growth within a safe school environment by evaluating our goals through data collected from our Healthy Kids Survey, support programs, guidance lessons, and STAR test results. From this process we have prioritized the following goals for the 2008-2009 school year:

Create a *Guidance Advisory Committee*. In our efforts to align our school counseling program to the National Standards, we will be forming a Guidance Advisory Committee to help steer our counseling program.

Expand our *Character Education Program*. Peers for Positive Change is a new club started this school year to focus on a school wide character education program.

Develop a *Bully Challenge Program*. Books related to bullying have been purchased through our PTSA. Students will be challenged to read several books and complete a survey related to bullying issues to bring attention to this topic on campus.

This is our first year submitting a complete SPARC. We will report on the outcome of our goals in next years SPARC.

## Keeping You Informed

Because communication is vital to student success, we have set a goal to foster an open-door policy and to disseminate information through personal contact, print media, and electronic means. The Thompson family stays informed through faculty, grade level, administrative, leadership, and department meetings. Information is shared with parents and the community through:

Personal Communication:

- ☞ Student/Parent/Teacher conferences
- ☞ SST, 504, and IEP meetings
- ☞ Classroom visitations
- ☞ Guidance lessons
- ☞ Board of Trustees presentations
- ☞ Back-To-School Night/Open House
- ☞ 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation
- ☞ PTSA and School Site Counsel meetings

Electronic Communication:

- ☞ Thompson website
- ☞ Email
- ☞ Phone contact
- ☞ Morning Announcements
- ☞ School Message Board
- ☞ Parent-Portal (online grade system)
- ☞ District website
- ☞ Connect-Ed

Print Communication:

- ☞ Student Agenda
- ☞ Counselor Corner in Newsletter
- ☞ Letters home
- ☞ Informational brochures
- ☞ Report cards mailed home
- ☞ SPARC
- ☞ SARC
- ☞ School Marquee

*Spanish translation is available upon request. Traducción Española por requerimiento.*

We are proud to share our SPARC  
with Staff, Administration, Parent Community, District, School Board, and our State Senate & Assembly members.  
For more information about this document, please contact Eileen Ponce at 951-696-1410 ext 4581 or [eponce@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:eponce@murrieta.k12.ca.us)



*The Thompson Middle School Counseling Department's Mission Statement is  
To create connections with students and the community to inspire*

*Relationships based on dignity and respect  
Pursuit of their talents and potential*

*Confidence in themselves to be their own advocates  
Passion towards life long learning*