



Community School At Alta Loma

A 3 Year Snapshot



Dear Stakeholder,

It has been 3 years since we became a Community School. Here is a little look at what we have been up to in these past 3 years.

We spent the first part of 2019 hiring the Community School Coordinator and assembling a leadership team. We celebrated in December with a Holiday Reading Festival. Six community partners joined us with a pancake breakfast, book giveaways, parent workshops and presents for all the kids.



2019/20

When the pandemic hit, we quickly shifted gears and partnered with Mid City Neighborhood Council, Johnny Cochran Middle School Grab and Go, and Zoe Church to provide food stability for our families. From March 2020 to March 2021, Zoe provided over 9,000 bags of grocery staples to our families! That Christmas, the most dedicated teachers in the land delivered holiday presents to the homes of over 400 children!



2020/21

The main goal of the 2020/21 school year was to maintain connection. We had a hugely successful online cooking club sponsored by Common Threads. We also experimented with social time as a reward for attendance. We learned from all stakeholders in that process.

This year, we have expanded our partnerships and reaped the benefits of our community engagement efforts. The following pages highlight some of our successes, and where we are headed next year. As a stakeholder at Alta Loma, we hope that this report inspires you to join us in co-creating the educational experience our students deserve!



2021/22

Heather Mura
Principal

Jennifer Liebi Zelazny
Community School Coordinator

Using an Assets Based Approach To Problem Solving

Need: Online Attendance Improvement Winter 2021

Assets: Motivated School Staff

Popular Teacher Assistants

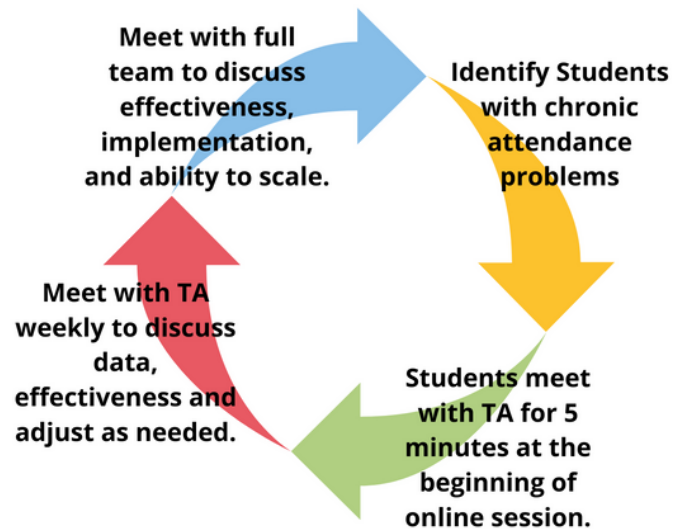
NEA Coaches to provide guidance to CS Coordinator

Team of Attendance Counselor, Social Worker, & Community School Coordinator asses which students need this Tier 2 intervention.

Small groups of students meet with TA in a break out room each day for 5 minutes of social chat and encouragement.

Would this extra attention from popular TAs motivate kids to log on to class more?

One Month Plan



After 1 Month of Faithfull Implementation

12/24 students improved their online attendance.

Challenges:

Schedules: If TA was scheduled to assist with small group instruction, even 5 minutes of small group time caused a whole class delay. Additionally, some TA's did not work 5 days a week so mentoring was spotty.

Assets: TA's really adjusted to student interests creating games and a fun social time for students.

Takeaway: Invest in relationship building

Standout Improvement:

Grade Student Attendance %

2nd- "E" - 69% to 94%

3rd- "K" - 15% to 47%

4th- "A" - 46% to 71%

5th- "A" - 61% to 100%

"I quickly realized they needed time to build relationships with each other, and that those friendships would be the motivation to attend."

-Richard Maldanado- Alta Loma
TA

"I felt good about being mentored. It gave me a chance to express my feelings with the TA."

-Daniel- Mentored 5th Grader



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2021-2022

Community Partner Spotlight

"We believe schools and neighborhoods have a symbiotic relationship. Healthy communities are centered around schools that are supported by their communities. At Ready to Help Mutual Aid Community Organization, we believe the students and their families must be active participants in supporting their schools and that every student can make a positive impact. We are advocating for Alta Loma Elementary School students because they need a safe green space to play and grow for the betterment of their community. Most importantly, we aren't just making it happen for them, we are showing them how to make it happen, so they grow up knowing how powerful they can be when working together as one community. We do it so the youth of Los Angeles can see that it all starts with them -- when students thrive, schools thrive; and when schools thrive, their communities thrive too."



AURA VASQUEZ
CO-FOUNDER
READY TO HELP MUTUAL
AID COMMUNITY



MANDEEP SINGH
OWNER PICKFORD MARKET
PARTNERED WITH LA FOOD POLICY
COUNCIL AND PROVIDED SCHOOL
T SHIRTS AND SWAG. PROVIDED
TEACHER GIFT BASKETS, GIFT CARDS
AND INCENTIVES

"We want to give back to the community that has been so supportive of us throughout the years"



SARGE HALL
MID CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEMBER
VOLUNTEERS DURING MORNING
RUSH HOUR FOR SAFE PASSAGE TO
SCHOOL

"I believe the foundation of our community are our kids and safety 1st! I got involved as a community leader to ensure the kids of Alta Loma had a safe passage to school and to reassure parents that their concerns were heard."



IVAN ESTRELLA
ALUMNI, PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN, & DISABILITY
RIGHTS ACTIVIST
SERVES ON LOCAL SCHOOL
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

"I got involved with leadership at Alta Loma because I believe that "together we can make a real difference in our community."



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LEADS TO COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

SPRAYSEE LA 2021

SpraySeeLA Mural Festival worked with local artists, businesses, and schools to bring more murals and large-scale creative expression to Los Angeles!

Thanks to the Public Arts Committee of the Mid City Neighborhood Council and SpraySee LA 11 murals by various artists were created at Alta Loma in July of 2021.

Top: "Inner Space" by Kar-Part

Birds by Yoshi

Male and Female Lions by KipToe

Female Robot "Inspiration" by TradeOne

Playfull handball court by GoopMasta



KAR-PART "INNER SPACE"

" I always wanted to meaningfully give back to the school system that gave so much to me. I hope that my piece will inspire many future generations of female scientists, engineers, artists, explorers, and leaders. My advice to the children is to relentlessly pursue your passions (the things you do that make you the happiest), be kind to one another, and never stop exploring."



Growing Partnerships

TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

We are facilitating collaborations between our partners to help everyone better serve the needs of our students and the larger community. These are just three examples.

Zoe Church & World Harvest

For the past 5 years Zoe Church has provided Thanksgiving groceries and Holiday presents to all of our students. During the pandemic Zoe provided 80 bags of groceries per week that parents and staff delivered to families with transportation barriers. In Spring of 2021 we connected Zoe Church to World Harvest (a reclaimed food market that we know from our relationship with Neighborhood Council), so that they could pivot and provide fresh produce at a Bi-Monthly Free Produce Market for Alta Loma and community members.

Mid City Neighborhood Council, Nature For All & Teapot LA

We had a few active community members with a passion for gardens and nature wanting to start a garden club. They were part of two grass roots organizations- Nature for All and Teapot LA. We sent them to Mid City Neighborhood Council where they got funding for busses to take some of our families to Descanso Gardens and the Natural History Museum.

St. Elmo Village & Ready To Help Mutual Aid Community

Alta Loma has been in community and partnership with St. Elmo Village Artist Community for over 50 years. Our students helped paint the driveway pictured at top over 50 years ago. Their children helped restore it just a few years ago. This year Ready to Help was looking to hold an in-person town hall to build student and family advocacy for green space. St. Elmo provided their beautiful patio.



"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."- Hellen Keller



LIFTING EVERY VOICE

Building the culture for collaborative leadership:

ENGAGING STUDENT VOICE WITH "STREET DATA"

During recess student leaders helped their peers answer basic questions like What do you like about our school? What could be better? What do you wish we had? A follow up survey about clubs helped us budget for next year's extra curriculars. We wanted to implement simple ideas quickly so students would feel empowered to make change. A Beyblade tournament was held a week after the survey.

PARENT SURVEYS & CONVERSATIONS

We had robust participation in our School Experience Survey. 85% of the parents, 100% of the students in grades 4 & 5, and 100% of teachers and staff. Additionally, we did our own survey with about 70% of parents responding. Although there was an abundance of positive feedback, barriers to participation and frustration over meeting times emerged as a theme. The results of our surveys have been shared with parents online and in our weekly Alta Loma News parent meeting.

OPEN TO HARD CONVERSATIONS

Now we need to grapple with the data. We need to have some more conversations, and figure out, together, how to be a more inclusive community for our working parents.

THE SIMPLE ACT OF PAYING ATTENTION CAN TAKE YOU A LONG LONG WAY."

-KEANU REEVES

