

CUSD 201 Board Meeting – October 22, 2019

Summary Report from Westmont High School

Westmont High School can report the best student achievement results in the history of the high school and the district. Based on the following data, it would be difficult to find any high school that is relatively achieving better overall than Westmont High School in the state of Illinois.

Accountability Data and Accomplishments 2018-2019 Report

Exemplary School – Highest Designation from the Illinois State Board of Education

2018

2019 (Anticipated)

We were also the regular high school (non-selective enrollment) with the highest poverty rate to achieve this designation.

Graduation Rate

For the past 7 years, 99% average for Westmont students completing all graduation requirement on time. Only 6 drop out in the past 7 years. 100% of Latino and African-American students have graduated on time seven years in a row.

For the Class of 2019, only one student dropped out, and this was the only student who did not complete all graduation requirements on time. 2 other students completed all graduation requirements on time, but were entitled to additional services after graduation. The ISBE counts these students as non-graduates.

This record is almost unmatched by any high school in Illinois and the country. If not the best, certainly in the top 1% in the nation.

S.A.T. – the state/federal mandated exam for Illinois

The results here for Westmont High School are outstanding. The Illinois School Report Card, provided by the Illinois State Board of Education, provides a scatterplot comparing all high schools in Illinois. Westmont once again significantly overachieves in this measure. We lead all schools in our economic sector, and outperform dozens of schools that have significantly fewer

students living in economic poverty. Please refer to the Illinois School Report Card when the results become public on October 30. This report clearly indicates that Westmont High School is achieving like very few schools in the state.

Advanced Placement Program

Westmont High Schools' Advanced Placement program is the most improved in Illinois and perhaps the country. Of regular high schools W.H.S. ranks in the top 1% for inclusion in the state and nation. We have moved from 38 passed exams in 2013 to 276 in 2019. We increased the number of A.P. Scholars from 3 (2013) to 58 (2019) and the number of passed exams by underrepresented students from 2 (2013) to 71 (2019). All with the same overall school enrollment. The number of seniors taking A.P. exams (76%) and the number of seniors passing at least one exam (54%) both rank in the top 1% in Illinois and the nation.

Washington Post/Jay Mathews Challenge Index (focused on Advanced Placement)

The oldest high school ranking system in the nation had Westmont High School at the top of all regular high schools in Illinois in 2018 (and # 3 of all high schools overall). In 2019, for the third year in a row, Westmont ranked in the top 1% of all high schools in Illinois. Since 2013, Westmont High School is the most improved of all regular high schools in Illinois in this ranking, and in the top 1% in the country for improvement and inclusion.

5 Essentials Survey Results –Anonymous School Climate and Culture Report

This anonymous survey, taken by our teachers, parents and students, has produced outstanding results for Westmont High School every year it has been administered. Over 90% of teachers, parents and students agree that Westmont High School is a high quality school where people feel respected and supported. The survey includes dozens of questions and results and can be found at 5 Essentials Survey results – Westmont High School. However, the results have been exceptional each year and 2019 is no different.

Great Schools Rankings

This independent ranking system is published each year and easily accessible on the internet. Great Schools ranks almost every school in the nation on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest). They use a variety of criteria that can be found on their website. Westmont High School continues to receive the highest ranking of 10 out of 10.

National Model Professional Learning Community

Westmont High School has been recognized as a national model Professional Learning Community. A conservative estimate is that over 20,000 schools are actively implementing the Professional Learning Community model. Westmont High School is one of only 33 high schools in the country to be recognized as a model high school.

Top Professional Learning Community in the Country – the DuFour Award

Westmont High School is in contention to be named the best Professional Learning Community in the country (and internationally). A copy of the questions from the application is included with this packet. To apply for this award, a school has to be recognized as a model PLC. Then the components of the application include the submission of a 5 minute video, artifacts and results from work done as a PLC, and 27 (200 to 500 word) essays that document the progress and work our school has done. The 3 finalists should be announced early in the new year with the winner being named in late January.

Westmont High School 8th Annual A.P./Collaborative Conference planned for May 2020

We know of no other high school that conducts such a large scale conference to bring teachers together to learn from each other and recognized leaders in our profession. Last year, we sold out for the second year in a row with over 650 teachers from over 80 different schools in attendance. It is a quality day of free staff development for our teachers, and it has put Westmont on the map for bringing colleagues together to collaborate.

Westmont High School as a learning destination and model school for visitors

In 2019, educational leaders from as far away as Australia chose to visit Westmont to learn more about our successful programs and practices. In total, leaders from 5 different countries, 8 states and every region of Illinois have visited WHS due to our student achievement results.

Westmont selected as first high school in DuPage County to serve Junior Board of Directors for the Peoples Resource Center

Westmont students have the honor of serving as the first Junior Board of Directors for this exceptional non-profit organization that serves neighbors from DuPage County in need with food, clothing, job training and may other valuable resources. The goal is for Westmont High School to lead the way and prepare to expand this program for other high schools in DuPage.

U.S. News and World Report High School Rankings

This national ranking/report uses data that is two years in arrears, so Westmont High School's most recent accomplishments are not included. However, in the 2019 report the College Readiness score created by U.S. News and World Report has Westmont in the top 1.5% of regular high schools in Illinois. With the new data that will be forthcoming Westmont's ranking should move up even further.

Niche – Real Estate / School Ranking System

In this rating system Westmont High School receives a grade of "A." However, part of the ranking is based on school spending. Ironically Westmont High School's score is lower because this system favors schools that spend more money. So a school that spends less money is down graded slightly. The test scores this system uses are also over two years in arrears. When they

catch up with more recent exam results we may move up in their rankings even though we are already rated an “A” school.

Freshmen on Track – Illinois School Report Card Data

The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois School Report Card system tracks the percentage of students in 9th grade that are on track for graduation. Research has shown that this statistic is most accurate in determining how successful schools will be with their graduation rates. For 2019, Westmont had a 99% freshmen on track rate; one of the best in Illinois and the nation.

Chronic Absenteeism Rate – Illinois School Report Card

Once again the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois School Report Card track Chronic Absenteeism among our students. A student who is considered a Chronic Absentee is one who misses 10% or more of school days for any reason.

In 2019, we cut our chronic absenteeism rate almost in half from the previous year from 17 % to 9%. There were several students who were outplaced who counted against Westmont even though they did not attend our high school. Dr. Kevin Weck took the lead on this work, and combined with our entire team we made significant progress with excellent results.

Latino and African-American student proficiency on state exams

Westmont is a state wide leader in achieving results in this area. While we need to continue to close the achievement gaps and are committed to continuous improvement, Westmont Latino and African-American students score close to 20% higher than similar students in Illinois. Furthermore, Westmont Latino and African-American students rank in the top 1.5% compared to other high schools in this category. We are looking for more achievement gains, but this too is an area where Westmont High School excels.

Westmont High School is deeply committed to continuous improvement. However, examining all the data provided no other high school like us is overachieving the way we are at Westmont. Our SAT scores are much higher than expected, and only schools with one tenth or one third of poverty rate are outperforming Westmont. In every other category we match the best schools in Illinois. This is a result of the efforts of our entire CUSD 201 community, and for that we are grateful and proud.