

# Discovery Charter School

**Annual Charter School Report to the  
Santa Clara County Board of Education  
2011-12**



**Submitted by Dale Jones, Superintendent/Executive Director  
February 1, 2012**

### Highlights

1. This year Discovery Charter School has added Positive Discipline training for all parents who are new to the school and all staff.
2. The Discovery Charter School “Learning Center” model for special education now includes a full time counselor. We serve a significant number of Autism-Spectrum students and have successfully integrated them into campus life and the regular classroom. 10.3% of our students receive special education services.
3. Discovery Charter School is implementing the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program and the “Bully Stoppers” reporting system.

### Facility

Discovery’s campus is located on the campus of Anderson School in the Moreland School District. We have 30 modulars, of which 25 are classrooms. The other five modulars are used for administration, first aid, food services, before and after school care (YMCA), a teacher work room, copying, laminating, supplies, staff offices, a library, and break out space for small groups.

In June of 2010 we signed a nine-year agreement with Moreland that allows us to stay in our current location. The agreement was made outside of Proposition 39 and requires us to pay “Fair Market Value” for the land and modulars that we lease from Moreland.

We have no cafeteria or multi-use room, no auditorium or gym, no science labs or additional classrooms that might be used as a lab or for breakout space, no space for drama or music, and our library is in half of a modular that we share with the YMCA daycare. We share the field and playground equipment with Anderson School.

### Enrollment

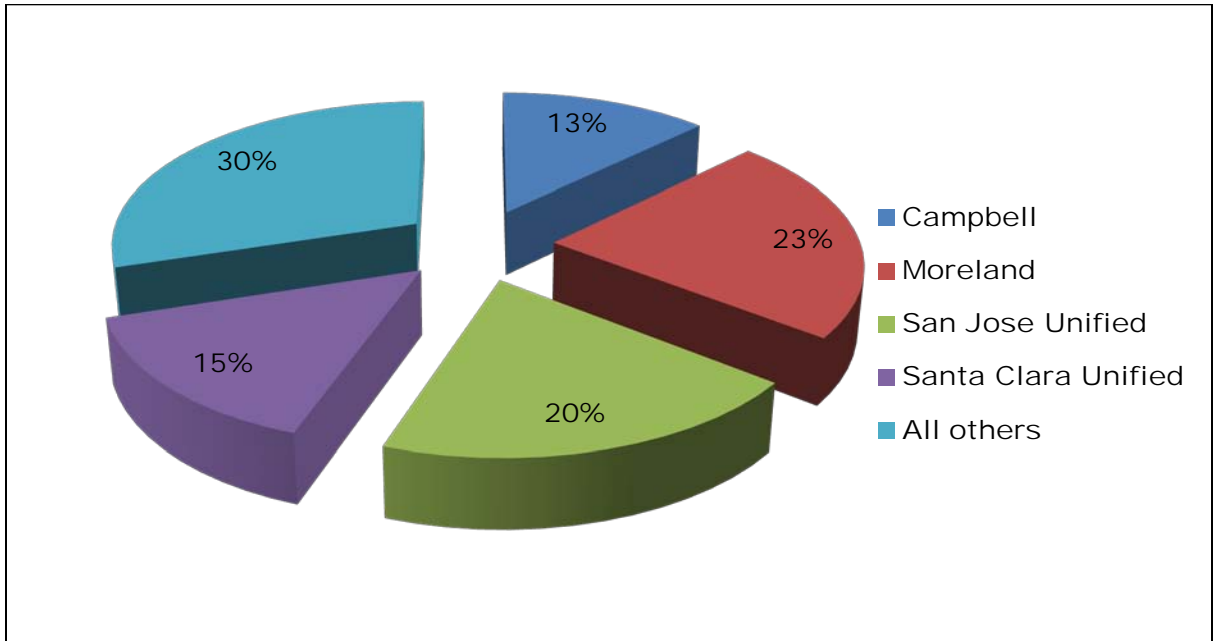
Our current enrollment is 571 students, and this is the maximum number allowed under our current agreement with Moreland. This year we had 690 applications for 82 openings – 55 in Kindergarten and 27 in 6<sup>th</sup> grade (We add a class of 6<sup>th</sup> graders each year).

We have eliminated our outreach and recruitment efforts, as our reputation and word of mouth between parents has for the past two years brought us more students than we have space for. We are prohibited by our facilities agreement with Moreland from recruiting Moreland students. We placed one advertisement in the Spanish-language newspaper “El Observador” in an effort to attract more Hispanic families.

Ethnic and Demographic Breakdown:

Number of students	571
African American	0.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.3%
Asian	30.9%
Filipino	2.1%
Hispanic or Latino	10.1%
Pacific Islander	0.4%
White (not Hispanic)	48.2%
Multiple or No Response	6.6%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	2%
English Learners	9.1%

Applicants



District	# Applicants	% Applicants
Alum Rock	8	1%
Berryessa	10	1%
Cambrian	13	2%
Campbell	88	13%
Cupertino	33	5%
East Side	2	0%
Evergreen	13	2%
Franklin McKinley	16	2%
Fremont	5	1%
Gilroy	2	0%

Hayward	2	0%
Los Altos	4	1%
Los Gatos	5	1%
Luther Burbank	1	0%
Milpitas	9	1%
Monte Sereno	1	0%
Moreland	161	23%
Morgan Hill	4	1%
Mountain View	1	0%
Mount Pleasant	2	0%
No district (lives in RV)	1	0%
Oak Grove	21	3%
Orchard	8	1%
Palo Alto Unified	1	0%
San Jose Unified	137	20%
Santa Clara Unified	104	15%
Santa Cruz	1	0%
Sunnyvale	18	3%
Union	19	3%
TOTAL	690	100%

Retentions

We retained two students this year for developmental reasons.

Teachers / Staff

Discovery Charter School currently employs two administrators, 23 classroom teachers, three math specialists, two P.E. Teachers, two classified office staff, one counselor, two RS teachers, one Speech and Language Pathologist, one Occupational Therapist, and 19 special education aides. Of those, six are male, one Hispanic, one Japanese, one Asian Indian, and one is Vietnamese.

Discovery has retained seven of its original employees and approximately one to two teachers leave annually.

The Salary Schedule is attached as Addendum #1.

Governing Board

The Board is comprised of five active members (one on leave). Of those, three are women and two are men. Terms are two years, and members are eligible to run again when their term expires. Two of the Board members (and the one on leave) are original Board members. One is in her first term and one is in her third year.

We adhere to the Brown Act –and all laws regarding conflict of interest. Discovery Charter School, as a parent and community driven effort, values the input from parents and community members regarding the educational design and operation of the Charter School. Discovery Charter School is committed to compliance with all

applicable state and federal laws. Discovery Charter School shall comply with applicable requirements of the Brown Act, Government Code 54950 *et seq.* including, but not limited to the notice requirements, the open meeting requirements, and all requirements for giving the public an opportunity to be heard. Furthermore, Discovery Charter School is committed to compliance with all state and federal laws preventing conflicts of interest. Board Members and administrators complete IRS Form 700.

Parent Survey

The results of our most recent parent survey, completed in December of 2011, are attached as Addendum #2.

Growth Plans

Due to the large number of applicants to Discovery that are unable to get into the school, we have started exploring the possibility of replicating. As of the date of this report, we are just beginning this process. We are hoping to collaborate with a district in this effort, and to date we have met with the Superintendents from San Jose Unified and Franklin-McKinley districts. The earliest we would open an additional school is the fall of 2013.

Special Programs

Just over ten percent of our students have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and receive services from two resource specialists, a speech and language pathologist, an occupational therapist, a counselor, a psychologist, and a number of aides. All of these specialists are employees of Discovery. In addition to individualized instruction, students may receive drop-in services, such as help with projects or a personal problem, social skills or pragmatic language groups, counseling, and after-school help with homework.

Special Education Enrollment Compared to Moreland School District	
Discovery Charter School	10.3%
Moreland School District	9%

Discovery also has an intensive reading intervention program that utilizes the Barton Reading and Spelling Program. Parent volunteers are trained to provide 1:1 tutoring for students who we have identified through teachers' concerns and assessments, including the Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing(CTOPP).

Just over nine percent of our students are classified as English Language Learners. Their needs are met through individualized and small group instruction that is leveled to their individual needs. Parent aides are also utilized to give these students more personalized attention.

English Language Learners Enrollment Compared to Moreland School District	
Discovery Charter School	9%
Moreland School District	29.3%

### Fundraising

Our primary fundraising strategy is a direct donation appeal to our families and staff. We currently suggest a donation of \$1000 for the year, but our emphasis is on participation and we understand that many of our families will not be able to afford to give this much.

### Foundation Donations and Grants

Discovery does not receive any foundation money. Last year we received one grant from PG&E to expand our teaching of energy and conservation, purchase meters to monitor individual classroom energy usage, and build a solar-powered fountain, ovens, and waterfall.

### Replicable Practices

- Learning Center Model of Special Education
- Individualized Spanish, French, and Chinese language instruction
- Acceleration of the Curricula for Gifted Students
- Barton Reading and Spelling Intervention Program
- Effective parent participation, including extensive training opportunities
- Positive Discipline
- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program
- Integrated Curriculum

Discovery Charter School has offered to provide training in the Barton Reading and Spelling Program free of charge to the Moreland School District. Discovery Charter School made the same offer to John Porter, the Superintendent of the Franklin-McKinley School District, after meeting with him about the possibility of collaborating on a new charter school.

### School Dates

We have two open house dates scheduled for January 26 and February 29. Graduation has not been finalized, but hopefully will be held on Thursday, June 7. This school year our final day is Friday, June 8.

## Addendum #1

,0,0

### Discovery Charter School Certificated Salary Schedule 2011-2012

Approved: 4/16/08  
Effective: 7/1/08

Steps	A	B	C	D	E
	Credentialed but less than 30 units	B.A. Degree + 30 Semester Units	B.A. Degree + 45 Semester Units	B.A. Degree + 60 Semester Units	B.A. Degree + 75 Semester Units
1	46,010	46,964	46,964	46,964	46,964
2	46,964	46,965	46,965	46,965	46,965
3	46,965	46,968	48,997	48,997	48,997
4	46,968	48,997	51,118	51,118	51,118
5	48,997	51,118	53,149	53,149	53,149
6	51,118	53,149	55,180	57,211	57,211
7	53,149	55,180	57,211	59,244	59,244
8	55,180	57,211	59,244	61,362	61,362
9	57,211	59,244	61,362	63,397	63,397
10	59,244	61,362	63,397	65,515	65,515
11	61,362	63,397	65,515	67,544	67,544
12	63,397	65,515	67,544	69,490	71,607
13			69,137	71,167	73,288
14			70,635	72,581	74,708
15				73,994	76,114
16				75,582	77,527
17				76,994	78,940
18				78,785	80,707
19				79,656	81,897
20				80,283	83,565
24					85,225
27					86,494
30					87,782

1. Column placement is determined by number of semester units completed after receipt of bachelor's degree or credential. Only one column advancement may be made each year.
2. Step placement is determined by credited years of K-12 credentialed experience.
3. A maximum credit of 15 years of experience within the last 16 years will be recognized for outside experience.
4. Exceptions to this schedule are made by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the Executive Director.

\$500 Stipend for any teacher holding one of the following credentials in addition to a credential qualifying him/her for regular classroom instruction:

RSP, LH, MILD MODERATE, REMEDIAL READING, HEALTH, LIB SCI, SPEECH/LANG.

Masters Degree : \$2034.00

5% added January 07

5% added July 07

1% added April 08



## Addendum #2 Parent Survey Results

Discovery Charter School Parent Survey Results

December, 2011

305 parents completed the survey.

**Question #1. Discovery meets the individual academic needs of my child.**

25.7% Strongly Agree, 48% Agree, 14.1% Not Sure, 10.9% Disagree, 3.1% Strongly Disagree

**Question #2. Overall, I would rate the academic program at Discovery as very effective.**

24.4% Strongly Agree, 49.5% Agree, 19.1% Not Sure, 5.9% Disagree, 1% Strongly Disagree

**Question #3. Discovery does a good job of meeting the needs of students who are struggling academically.**

22% Strongly Agree, 37.5% Agree, 33.9% Not Sure, 5.9% Disagree, 0.7% Strongly Disagree

**Question #4. Discovery does a good job of meeting the specific needs of advanced learners.**

12.5% Strongly Agree, 37.6% Agree, 37% Not Sure, 11.2% Disagree, 1.7% Strongly Disagree

**Question #5. Overall, I would rate the academic and personal support services outside the classroom as very effective.**

19.4% Strongly Agree, 39.1% Agree, 33% Not Sure, 7.8% Disagree, 0.7% Strongly Disagree

**Question #6. Discovery teaches my child to respect other members of the school community.**

39.8% Strongly agree, 50.7% Agree, 5.6% Not Sure, 2.6% Disagree, 1.3% Strongly Disagree

**Question #7. Students at Discovery behave appropriately towards adults, particularly aiding parents, while in the classroom.**

20.3% Strongly Agree, 56.1% Agree, 11.6% Not Sure, 9% Disagree, 3% Strongly Disagree

**Question #8. Students at Discovery behave appropriately towards adults while on the playground.**

13.6% Strongly Agree, 57% Agree, 20.5% Not Sure, 8.6% Disagree, 0.3% Strongly Disagree

**Question #9. Students at Discovery demonstrate respect for their peers while in the classroom.**

12.5% Strongly Agree, 65.5% Agree, 14.8% Not Sure, 5.6% Disagree, 1.6% Strongly Disagree

**Question #10. Students at Discovery demonstrate respect for their peers while on the playground.**

7.7% Strongly Agree, 56.5% Agree, 25.1% Not Sure, 9.4% Disagree, 1.3% Strongly Disagree

**Question #11. The Discovery Details newsletter is a good tool for communicating with me about important school policies and events.**

38.5% Strongly Agree, 47.6% Agree, 6.1% Not Sure, 5.4% Disagree, 0.7% Strongly Disagree

**Question #12. The DCS Parents e-mail group is a good tool for communicating with me about important school policies and events.**

55.1% Strongly Agree, 39.6% Agree, 2.3% Not Sure, 2.3% Disagree, 0.3% Have No Access

**Question #13. Parents on campus consistently enforce school rules and policies.**

11% Strongly Agree, 42.9% Agree, 25.2% Not Sure, 17.9% Disagree, 3% Strongly Disagree

**Question #14. Staff consistently enforce school rules and policies.**

27.7% Strongly Agree, 54% Agree, 11.7% Not Sure, 6.3% Disagree, 0.3% Strongly Disagree

**Question #15. The Executive Director communicates effectively regarding school-wide issues.**

36.5% Strongly Agree, 47.2% Agree, 13% Not Sure, 3% Disagree, 0.3% Strongly Disagree

**Question #16. Instruction and information to help prepare you for your role in the classroom was given in your classroom by your teacher. Did you find that instruction at this level prepared you for your work/job in the classroom?**

25.3% Strongly Agree, 56.3% Agree, 11.3% Not Sure, 6.7% Disagree, 0.3% Strongly Disagree

**Question #17. Regarding your school-wide support position. Did you receive adequate instruction and information to do your job?**

23.5% Strongly Agree, 54.8% Agree, 12.9% Not Sure, 7.8% Disagree, 1% Strongly Disagree

**Question #18. Do you understand the difference between the Discovery School Board and the Program Site Council governance missions?**

15.2% Strongly Agree, 32.5% Agree, 37.7% Not Sure, 9.9% Disagree, 4.6% Strongly Disagree

**Question #19. Is it clear to you what the Program Site Council does?**

11.9% Strongly Agree, 35.8% Agree, 37.4% Not Sure, 10.9% Disagree, 4% Strongly Disagree