



STRATEGIC PLAN

CONTRA COSTA SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

2023-2028



ABOUT US

The Contra Costa School of Performing Arts (“CoCoSPA”) is a tuition-free, public, independent charter school located in Walnut Creek, CA. Founded in 2015 and opening doors to our first students in 2016, the school now serves grades 6-12. The mission of Contra Costa School of Performing Arts is to provide a distinguished, pre-professional experience in performing arts within a college and career preparatory setting. We believe in fostering a culture of excellence with the core values of rigor, relevance, resilience, and relationships.

CoCoSPA is a small community school that celebrates your individuality and the arts drive your academic success.

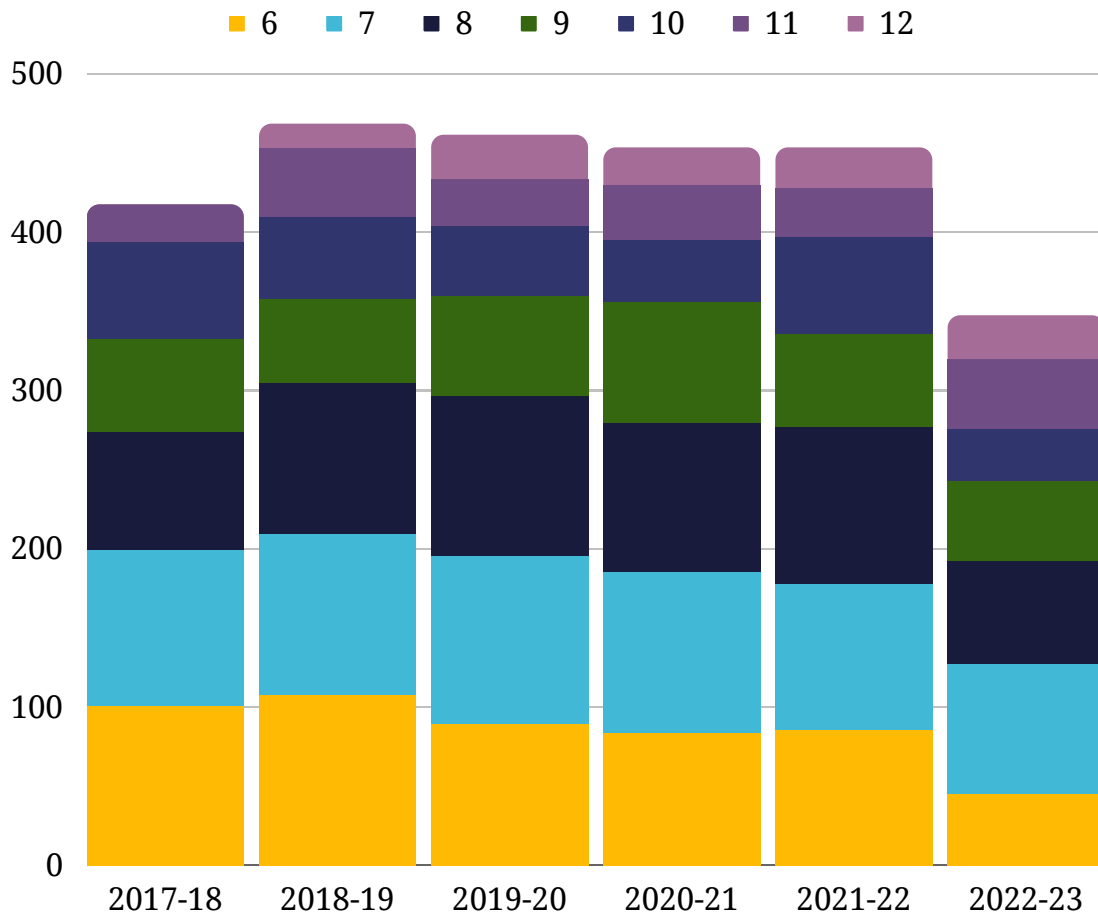


CURRENT PRACTICES

- Single Site, Independent Charter School
- Authorized by the Contra Costa County Office of Education
- 7 grade levels
- 5 art majors
- 50 high school art courses (150 students)
- 16 middle school art courses (200 students)
- Teacher: Student ratio of 1:13
- Summit Learning Personal Learning Platform with Project-Based Learning curriculum
- Google Classroom/ PowerSchool for Arts courses

ENROLLMENT

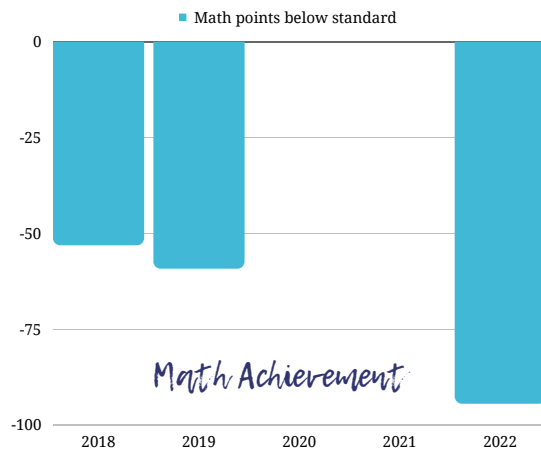
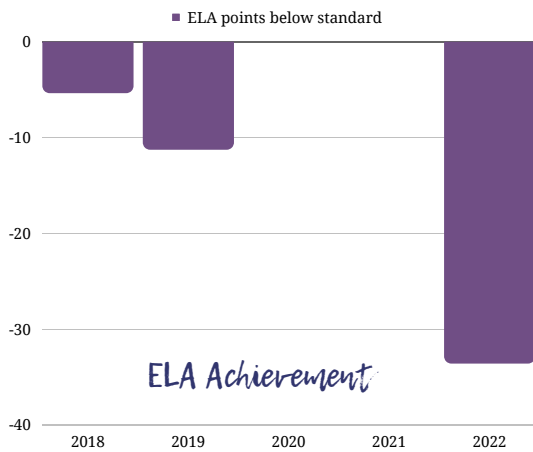
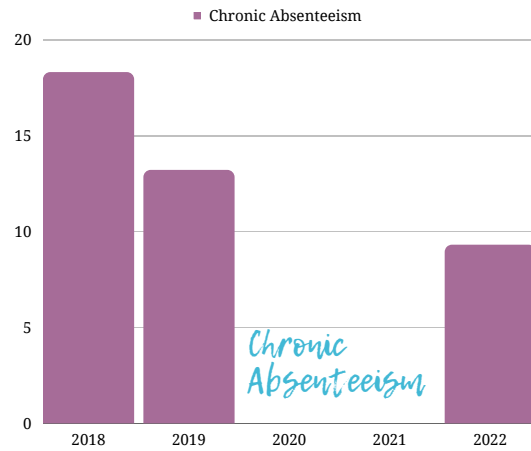
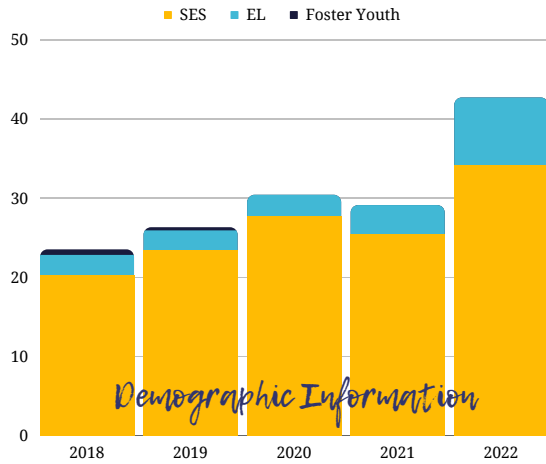
2017-2023



Enrollment at CoCoSPA was fairly consistent from 2017-2022 as evidenced by the graph above. In 2022-23, CoCoSPA saw a drop in enrollment. While enrollment in grades 9-12 has remained steady at approximately 150 over time, enrollment in grades 6-8 has fluctuated a great deal.

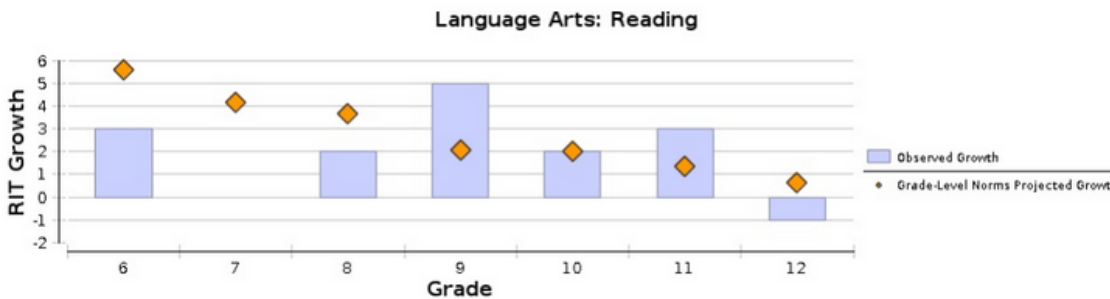
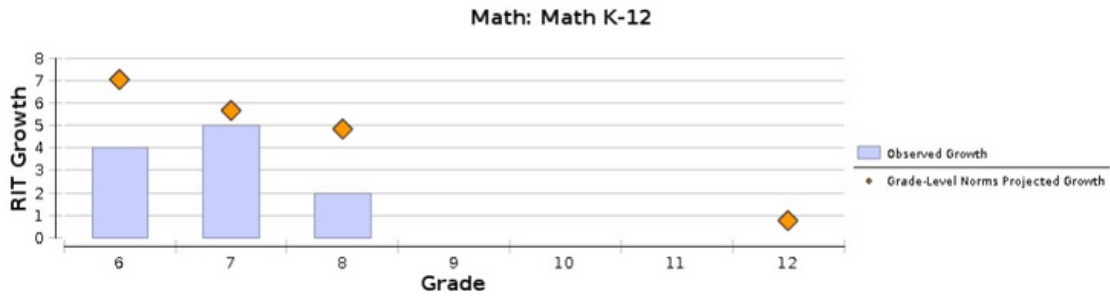
California

SCHOOL DASHBOARD DATA 2017-2023



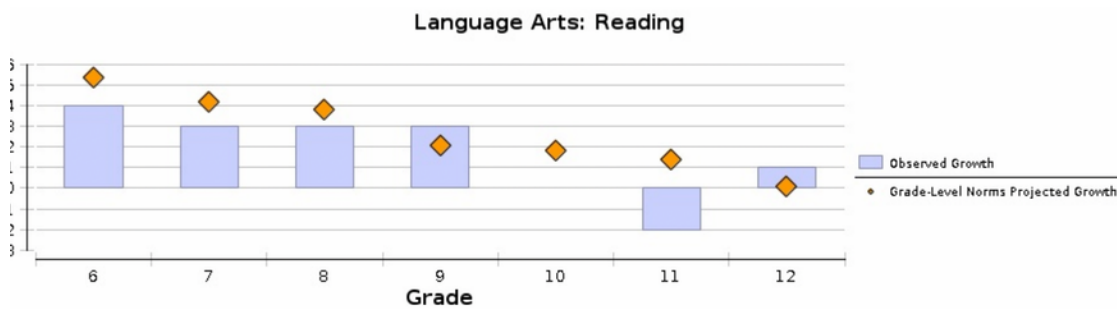
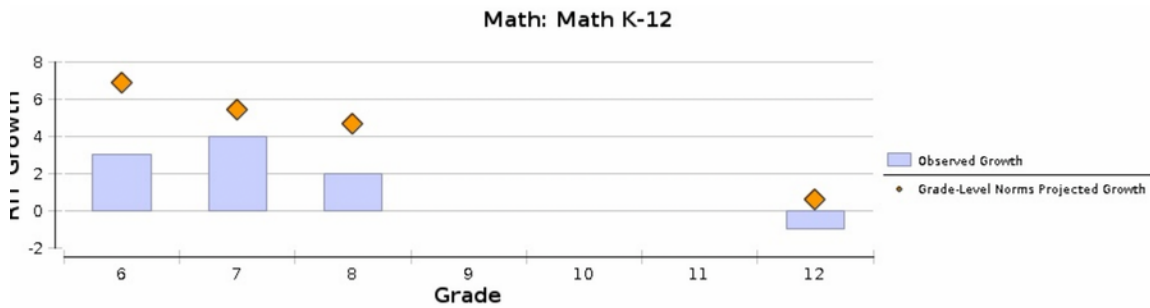
CoCoSPA continues to serve more English Learners and students of low socioeconomic status. As well, we are witnessing the impact that the pandemic took on learning in English and Math classes. However, students have been eager to return to CoCoSPA as evidenced by a decrease in chronic absenteeism.

MAP RESULTS 2021-2022



The 2021 and 2022 school year was a successful for many grade levels. Our high school students met or exceeded the projected growth for reading. However, our high school students have had low growth in math. While grades 6 through 8 show growth in both reading and math, we can further see the impact of the pandemic based on how projected growth was not met.

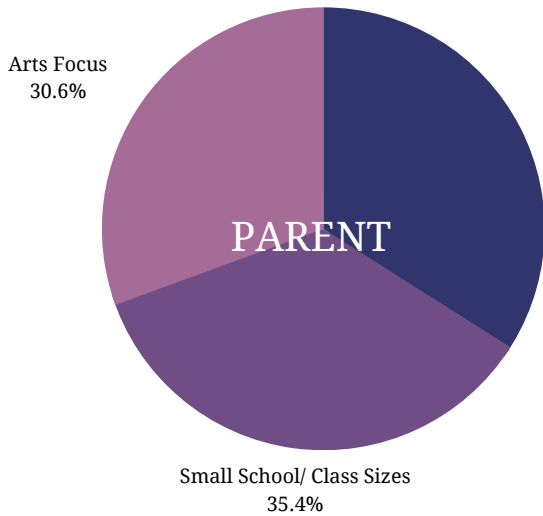
MAP RESULTS 2022-2023



With the 2022-2023 school year came a shift in CoCoSPA's instructional focus to reading. MAP data highlights shifts in students' reading comprehension, particularly the improvement in the middle grades. Growth in math remains consistent across the years, due to the dedication of the math team.

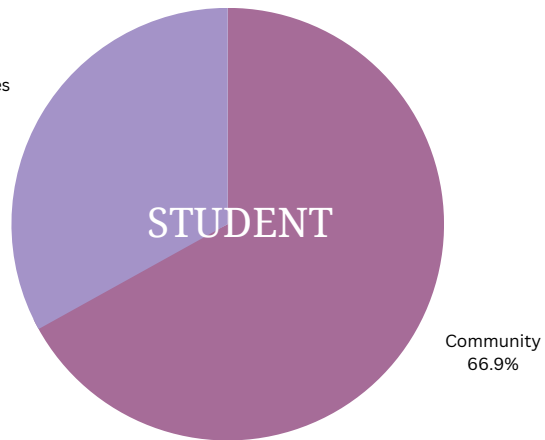
FEEDBACK

What's going well?

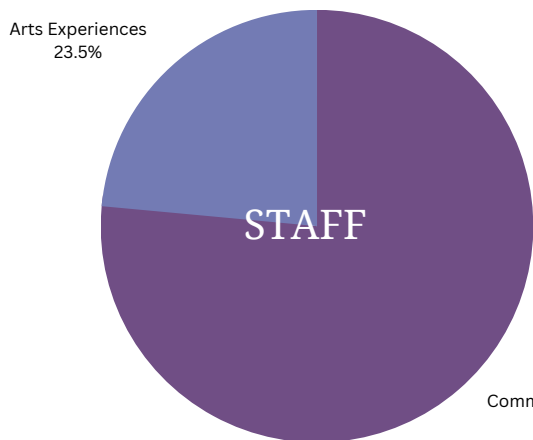


Welcoming Community
34%

Arts Experiences
33.1%



Community
66.9%

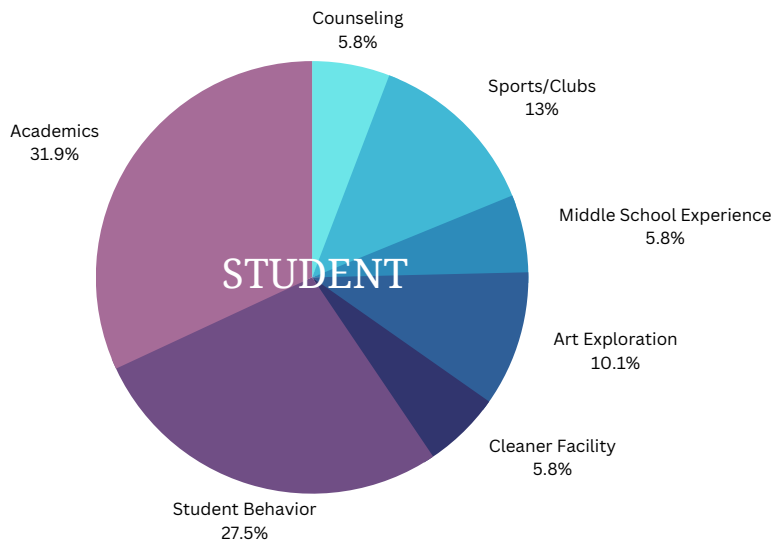
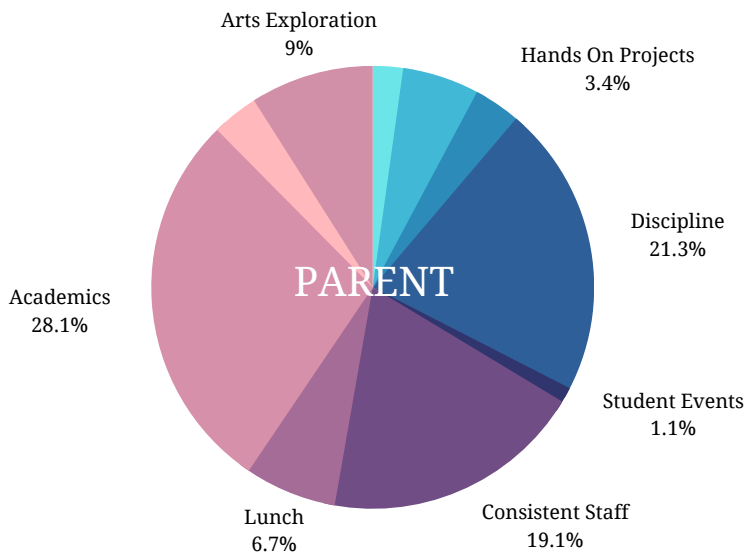


Community/ Relationships
76.5%

Parent, Student, and Staff feedback are aligned in identifying that the arts experience and our culture and sense of belonging at the school are key aspects of the school that are going well. Additionally, parents value the small school and smaller class sizes that our school offers.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

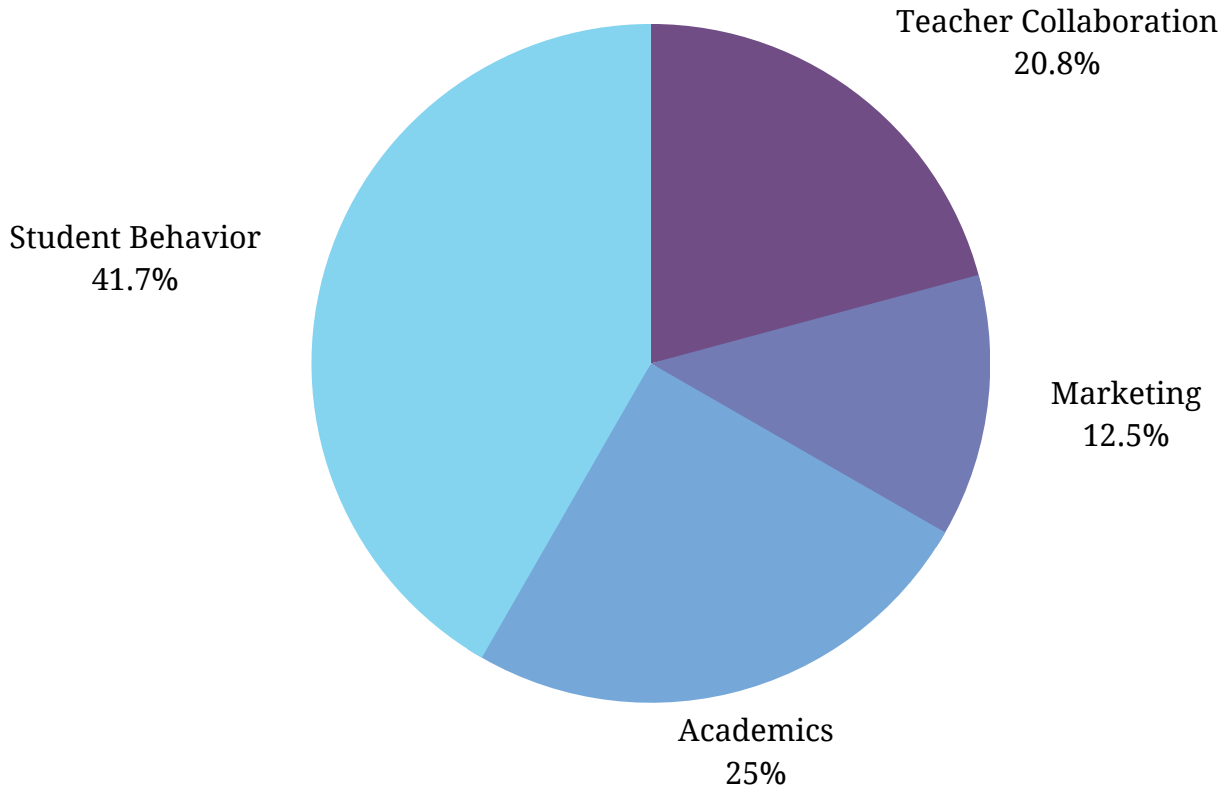
What are areas of growth?



Student and parent feedback clearly overlap to indicate a few priority areas: student behavior, improving the academic program, and opportunities to explore more than one art area. Parents also would like to see staff retention increase. Students would like consistent counseling opportunities and sports and club opportunities.

STAFF FEEDBACK

What are areas of growth?



Staff feedback mirrors student and parent feedback with a need to improve our academic program and to improve student behavior.

Additionally, teachers would like more opportunities for collaborating with their colleagues. Staff also believe that the school needs to market itself more broadly.



WE BELIEVE IN

*Rigor,
Relationships,
Relevance, &
Resilience*

- We value Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and welcome everyone to our space.
- We value relationships and community.
- Each and every student can learn and achieve at high levels.
- Each and every student can find their art pathway and excel.
- Rigor is within our curriculum and instruction.
- Student voice and choice is critical to our work.



THEORY OF *Change*

In order to infuse our learning community with more meaning, relevance, and curiosity, we will employ a project-based approach throughout all our courses. The foundation of project-based learning asks for greater student choice, control, collaboration, and challenge which increases motivation, allows for safe academic risks, and encourages lifelong learning. We will use the issues that resonate with our students, the community, and the world they will inherit to guide our work.

“Sometimes folks look at low-income students, students of color, English learners, students with disabilities and say to themselves, ‘Because they are behind in some way academically, I’m going to make a very drill-focused, sort of minimalist curriculum.’ And that is exactly backward. The way that we’re going to accelerate the students who most need support is through rigorous, engaging learning experiences like project-based learning when it’s done well.”
~ Lucas Educational Research Brief



Results with PROJECT BASED LEARNING

From Lucas Educational Research:

High school students engaged in project-based learning in Advance Placement US Government and Politics and Environmental Science courses outperformed students in traditional classrooms on AP exams. The effect held for students from lower-income and higher-income households. Notably, a higher proportion of students in the study were from low-income households than is typical for AP test takers.

Students participating in a PBL middle-school science program in high-poverty, diverse schools, outperformed peers receiving traditional science instruction on science, math, and English assessments. English Learners in the PBL course, outperformed peers on a language proficiency test.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qmLOqrXGzHsLGE0-JP8vrQwN4d7rDR1h/view?usp=sharing>

From PBL Works:

"The good news is that research shows that PBL can promote student learning and may be more effective than traditional instruction in social studies, science, mathematics, and literacy. The 20 studies reviewed in this brief show that PBL can promote student learning in social studies and science; and, to a more limited degree, in mathematics and literacy. The continued emergence of research findings to support PBL as a valid instructional method for all students, including those who are furthest from opportunity, is promising."

https://www.pblworks.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/PBL_Evidence_Matters_Volume_I.pdf



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Fiscal & Operational Solvency
 - Contra Costa School of Performing Arts is committed to establishing and sustaining operational and fiscal solvency to ensure continued, ongoing operations.
- Arts. & Academic Programming
 - Contra Costa School of Performing Arts builds equitable learning experiences that honor and build upon each and every student's cultural and personal identity, with a focus on academic outcomes and immersion in the arts.
- Enrollment & Marketing
 - Contra Costa School of Performing Arts is highly focused on sustainable enrollment and retention and will showcase the school through marketing efforts on a continual basis.
- Safety & Culture
 - Contra Costa School of Performing Arts is committed to ensuring that each and every student and staff member is safe and feels a sense of belonging, while ensuring we have a culture of creativity and collective problem solving.



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- **Fiscal & Operational Solvency**

- Quarterly monitor bond covenants as a standing board agenda item.
- Keep staffing directly aligned to enrollment and program directly aligned to staffing.
- Continue to revisit approved salary schedules on an annual basis to ensure market competitiveness
- Continue to identify and apply for grants to support the work of the school
- Continue to identify and implement any fundraising opportunities with a focus on supplies for students and money for guest artists / field trips.
- Analyze and reduce overlap of technology (Summit/ Google classroom; onthestage/ revtrak, etc.).



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Contra Costa School of Performing Arts builds equitable learning experiences that honor and build upon each and every student's cultural and personal identity, with a focus on academic outcomes and immersion in the arts.

- **Arts & Academic Programming**
 - Project-Based Learning (PBL)
 - Selected PBL Works Toolkit
 - Integrate the arts and academics through multi-disciplinary project-based learning units
 - Incorporate 4 PBL Exhibitions of Learning into the school experience to engage families in the PBL community.
 - Arts
 - Matrix for Evaluation of Program
 - Identify and utilize community venues for performances and gallery showings.
 - Establish a flexible scope and sequence that can be responsive to enrollment fluctuations.
 - Academic
 - Use the Universal Design for Learning framework as PBL units are built to ensure equitable access and outcomes for each and every student.
 - Reading Strategies
 - CAASSP
 - Use standards-aligned curriculum in Math to improve academic outcomes for students.
 - iReady



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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- **Enrollment & Marketing**
 - Designate an enrollment and family support lead position
 - Establish a strong social media presence prioritizing enrollment messages in one account per platform.
 - Deepen relationships with feeder schools
 - Implement a two-way communications tool
 - Utilize enrollment software technology for student recruitment
 - Retention
 - CTE
 - Arts Productions/ Showcases
 - Expand community engagement and outreach.
 - Continue to encourage and inspire parents and students to leave positive reviews on Great Schools, Google, Niche, Yelp, etc.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Contra Costa School of Performing Arts is committed to ensuring that each and every student and staff member is safe and feels a sense of belonging, while ensuring we have a culture of creativity and collective problem solving.

- **Safety & Culture**

- Contra Costa School of Performing Arts is committed to implementing and supporting our Positive Behavior Intervention Supports with our schoolwide expectations of SHINE.
 - Show responsibility
 - Have respect
 - Invest in yourselves
 - Notice others
 - Encourage Excellence
- Contra Costa School of Performing Arts is committed to creating and supporting student and staff experiences that enhance connection and belonging, while ensuring all persons are educated in best practices for maintaining this..
- In order to maintain safety, facilities will be maintained and clean.