

WESTERN HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ROTORUA



Taumata Rau

CHARTER

2010

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DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL

Western Heights High School is a co-educational Secondary School catering for Years 9 to 14 students of all ages.

Attached Units are: Te Ruinga Pai
 Special Needs
 Health and Wellness Centre
 Te Akoranga Reo Rua
 Gateway

STUDENTS

The School roll (1 March, 2009 was 1467)

The ethnic composition of the School roll is:

Maori	51%
European	44%
Pacific Island	2%
Other	3%

The full range of socio-economic groups is represented. The School has a Decile **4** rating.

There are 45 students in our Te Ruinga Pai Unit and 22 in the Special Needs Unit.

STAFF

96 Teaching Staff
43 Associate Staff

37% of the teaching staff identify as Maori.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

The School appreciates the liaison with the following outside agencies:

Canterbury University	District Health Board
Sport Bay of Plenty	School Library Service
Matua Whaangai	Tertiary Education Commission
Ministry of Education	Open Polytechnic
Youth Aid Division NZ Police	Manukau Polytechnic
Ministry of Transport	NZSTA
Waiariki Institute of Technology	Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust
School Support Services - Waikato	Rotorua District Council
University of Waikato	Ngati Whakaue Education Endowment Trust
Environment Bay of Plenty	Manaakitanga Trust

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

The Western Heights High School has a Property Occupancy Agreement with the Ministry of Education for the Old Quarry Road site consisting of the following property and buildings:

Property

Eleven hectares located in Old Quarry Road, Rotorua.

Buildings

- ◆ Administration Block including Hall, 16 offices, Staffroom, Staff workroom.
- ◆ Two Nelson Style teaching blocks, 23 general teaching rooms, teacher resource and preparation rooms.
- ◆ 11 Prefabricated classrooms.
- ◆ Library Block, Reading room and offices.
- ◆ 2 Gymnasias, storage areas and teacher resource room
 - swimming pool
 - 8 tennis courts, 6 netball courts
 - 1 basketball court
- ◆ Heights Creative Block
 - 4 Art Rooms
 - 1 Dark Room
 - 1 Kiln
 - 3 Music Rooms (1 is Rehearsal/Recording Studio)
 - 1 Drama Room
 - 2 Computer Labs
 - 4 Music Practice Rooms
 - 4 Offices
 - Storerooms
- ◆ Technical Studies Block containing three specialist workshops, two Graphics rooms, Sewing and Home Economics rooms and resource and storage areas.
- ◆ Free standing Technical room and storage.
- ◆ Half Nelson and Cebus Blocks containing seven Science laboratories, three teaching rooms, Computer room, storage and teacher resource rooms.
- ◆ Transition and Guidance Unit, including Health and Wellness Centre.
- ◆ Double unit Special Education rooms.
- ◆ Maori Language complex containing Wharenui, four general teaching spaces, kitchen and teacher resource room.
- ◆ Canteen and Student Centre.
- ◆ Playing fields (3 rugby, 1 hockey, 1 soccer), 2 athletic tracks, cricket practice wicket.
- ◆ Tractor shed, grounds maintenance workshop.
- ◆ Caretaker's house.
- ◆ Bus garage/canoe shelter.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- 1 The Board encourages the close liaison between Staff and Board of Trustees.
- 2 The School appreciates the involvement of parents and community members, especially past students, in wider curriculum activities.
- 3 The School is held in high regard by the community and our past students.
- 4 The School celebrates its achievement and involvement in academic, cultural and sporting activities, eg Heights Creative evening, Multisport Tournament.
- 5 Te Akoranga Reo Rua was established in 1990 and is catering for the enhancement of Te Reo Maori.
- 6 The Board of Trustees consults with the School community through
 - ❖ regular newsletters
 - ❖ “meet the parent” and report evenings (twice a year)
 - ❖ Open Night Presentation (Term 3) to introduce new and past parents and, students to current curriculum and extra curricular programmes
 - ❖ Academic Pathways (Term 3) to align with Careers Education, GATE and WERO programmes

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL'S COMMUNITY

The School's community is defined as those students, ex-students, parents, guardians, staff members and school supporters who have active present day affiliations to the School or because of past connections still have that affiliation.

The geographic area is basically made of the North-Western sector of the city of Rotorua and the areas of Ngongotaha, Kaharoa, Mamaku and Hamurana.

Main features of this community are:

- 1 Maori families form a significant proportion of the community. Twenty six per cent of the total population and fifty one per cent of all students identify themselves as Maori.
- 2 Compared with Rotorua and New Zealand, it is a young community with a slightly higher growth rate.
- 3 Single parent families and extended families / whanau groups are important components of the local community.
- 4 A larger than normal proportion of workers are wage and salary earners and a significant number of women have part-time or full-time employment.
- 5 Fifty four per cent of parents are employed in categories five and six of the Elley-Irving Index or are on some form of benefit. There is a sizeable unemployed group.
- 6 Business and rural sectors are widely and strongly represented within the community.
- 7 A wide range of sporting and cultural groups are well supported, the Maori community especially having strong marae bases.
- 8 The School draws its students mainly from Kaharoa and Mamaku Primary Schools, Kaitao Intermediate and Rotorua Intermediate. It has special relationships with Kea Street Special School, Awhina High School and Waiariki Institute of Technology. Close relationships are maintained with Rotorua's other four secondary schools. Students leaving for tertiary studies tend to go to Waiariki Institute of Technology and Waikato University.
- 9 The community expects of the School a broad, balanced education on traditional lines.
- 10 Community- School Relationships are constantly encouraged - see Strategic Plan.
- 11 A community strength is the close association with Te Arawa through its sub-tribes (Hapu) represented in the district, eg Ngati Whakaue, Ngati Rangiwewehi, and Ngati Ngararanui. The relationship established through PTA, sports and cultural administration and coaching and fundraising activities is a further strength.

MISSION STATEMENT

Western Heights High School will provide opportunities for individuals to achieve
Taumata Rau – Heights Through Opportunity

VISION

Students, Staff, Board and Community work together towards excellence and achievement

BELIEFS

- Each individual has their own potential for performance
- Education involves building mana
- Each individual deserves equal opportunity to participate and succeed
- Education involves the holistic development of individuals

VALUES

Educational Values

- Perseverance
- Co-operation
- Striving
- Creativity
- Resilience

Virtues Values

- Respect for self, others and the environment
- Trust, integrity, honesty and tolerance will be promoted

CULTURAL DIVERSITY & MÄORI DIMENSION

Every child will be aware of the dual cultural heritage of New Zealand and the multi-cultural nature of our society

Steps the school will take to incorporate Tikanga Mäori (Mäori culture and protocol) into the school's curriculum are:

- Karakia at assemblies/hui
- School Kaumatua
- Powhiri to welcome all Year 9 and other new students/staff
- School-wide Haka/Powhiri
- School Haka and Waiata
- Te Roopu Manaaki Kapa Haka Group

The school will provide instruction in Te reo Mäori (Mäori language) for full time students whose parents request it through:

- Partial Immersion Unit: Te Akoranga Reo Rua
- Mainstream Te Reo at all Year levels

Steps that will be taken to discover the views and concerns of the school's Mäori communities are:

- Regular whanau hui
- Surveys of Maori parents
- Maori representation on Board of Trustees

Other cultures will be recognised by:

- Pacifica Performing Groups
- International Student Assembly Focus