Castlemont High School’s mission is to create a safe, healthy and engaging learning experience that prepares all of our students for college, career and community. Our Sustainable Urban Design and Public Health pathways make education relevant through authentic, community-centered action research, interdisciplinary projects and work-based learning.

Community Health Equity Academy (CHEA)

Industry Theme: Community/Public Health

The Castlemont Health Equity Academy activates students as agents of change by 1) developing their knowledge of self, including strengths, interests, and leadership, 2) deepening their understanding of the connections between population patterns of health/disease, environmental issues and social systems/institutions, and 3) supporting opportunities to practice skills and apply knowledge through work-based learning and action research.

Semester Focus: Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health Specifically Social Inclusion and Supportive Community

This semester Mr. Oakes’ 9th grade class focused on...
- Self, family, and community exploration through a “Who am I” project
- PTSD, trauma, self healing and the experience within an inner city
- Drugs and Alcohol: what are they, how they affect the community & prevention

This semester Mrs. Burks’ 10th grade class examined...
- The different types of oppression
- How oppression affects your mental health

How does social inclusion affect your mental health?

“When you’re feeling down or having a problem your friends are there to support you and give you advice. When someone is there for you you feel like you’re not by yourself. Without people showing they care, your thoughts are all over the place and you can feel discouraged, down and not know what to do.”

Ma.Cristina Arlantico, grade 10

Congratulations to Castlemont Students Robin Clark, Rosa Mendoza, and Simoya Harris for their acceptance into the HEAL (Health Excellence Academic Leadership) internship program at Highland Hospital. HEAL exposes students to the work and life within the healthcare system with an intro. to a variety of health professions and bridges their educational and professional development.

Students at Lands End Lookout after completing their first CHEA pathway culture building activity
This semester we had 15 Castlemont students complete a college carpentry course offered through Laney College. Students learned introductory skills and familiarized themselves with power tools.

Students:
- Installed a window and floor in the container for an office for the farm
- Built picnic tables for the farm & orchard
- Built raised beds & tables for the greenhouse
- And LOTS of other amazing projects

The Women’s Can Build Fair was an opportunity for young women to learn about the trades and apprenticeships. In addition to gaining a wealth of knowledge, students were able to participate in hands-on demonstrations with tools of the trade.

Mission: Empower students to be designers and leaders of movements towards a sustainable and just world, by engaging students in hands-on curriculum to design, engineer and build community projects.

This semester students primary focus was on design thinking... creating new and innovative ideas to solve problems.

In Mr. Singsheim’s Sustainable Urban Ecology class, students studied:
- Fossil Fuels and Particulate Matter Pollution
- Oakland, A Case Study: Differing levels of PM pollution & its connection to Asthma rates

Mr. Surber’s students worked through the iterative design process creating their own individual projects. This design methodology is based on a cyclic process of prototyping, testing, analyzing, and refining a product.

Beyond the Classroom
Students visited the University of San Francisco to sit in on a community design architecture class. Prior to traveling to USF, students stopped at the Golden Gate Botanical Gardens for project inspiration.

Students visited the Jacobs Institute winter showcase at the University of Berkeley to see a model of presenting design. Students were also able to visit the CITRIS Invention Lab & speak with Cal STEM students.

SUDA students were invited to spend two nights at Pie Ranch in Pescadero participating in a combination of food education & farmer training. Before returning home students also attended a conference on decolonizing their diets.

SUDAWORKS (at a glance!)
- Recruited over 15 new interns to work in the garden 2x/week
- Grew & sold vegetable starts, from the greenhouse, to OUSD for distribution in school gardens across the district
- FabLab students made amazing progress using our digital manufacturing tools. Students have been designing and making products that they then sell, use, or donate to worthy causes
- Successful fall farm-to-table event