

Volunteer at **Oakland International High School** !

Oakland International High School's mission is to provide quality education for recently-arrived immigrant students in English language acquisition and in preparation for college.

Building relationships & practicing English with caring adults can make a marked difference in our students' transitions to life & school in Oakland. **Volunteers forge deep relationships with our school, our students & our staff.**



OIHS seeks volunteers for the following three programs:

Volunteer Opportunities:

- ❖ **Volunteer Classroom Assistants:** Classroom assistants support OIHS teachers in the classroom by working one-on-one with high need students (including those with severely limited English who need additional help accessing curriculum, and more advanced students in need of more challenge). *Schedule:* At least one class during the school day (8:20-3:30 M, T, Th, F; 8:20-12:30 W) *Minimum Commitment:* 1 semester (preferred full year)
- ❖ **After School Tutors:** After School Tutors help staff our after-school drop-in tutoring program, run by Refugee Transitions (www.reftrans.org). Nearly 60 students/day come for homework help, English practice & study skill development—as well as for unstructured mentoring with caring community adults. *Schedule:* Mon, Tues, Thurs: 3:00-5:00; Wed. 1:00-3:30) . *Minimum Commitment:* 1 consistent day/week (ex. Every Monday) for an entire semester (strongly preferred for a full year)
- ❖ **Home Based Tutors with Refugee Transitions:** Refugee Transitions (www.reftrans.org) trains, matches and supports volunteers to work one-on-one (or sometimes in pairs) with newly-arrived refugee, asylee & immigrant students in the students' homes. Refugee Transitions works with OIHS to match the most high-need, linguistically, culturally & socially isolated students with a caring adult for academic tutoring, ESL teaching & mentoring. *Schedule:* Flexible, according to student & volunteer availability. *Minimum Commitment:* 2-4 hours/week for 9 months

Steps to Volunteering with OIHS:

1. Complete an application online (www.oaklandinternational.org/2007/09/web-resources.html)
2. Attend a training with Refugee Transitions and/or Oakland International
3. Meet individually with RT/OIHS staff
4. Provide proof of recent negative TB (we can direct you to free clinics)
5. Complete your livescan fingerprints

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More about Oakland International High School

History: Oakland International High School opened in August 2007 with the support of the Internationals Network of Public Schools, Oakland Unified School District, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The school targets a population of students, newly arrived immigrants, who have historically been underserved nationally, in California, and in Oakland.

OIHS is a member of the Internationals Network for Public Schools, a non-profit organization that grew out of the work of a group of International high schools in New York City. Our first school opened in 1985, and Internationals now supports 14 New York City schools as well as two schools in California and a small learning community in Alexandria, VA. The network's mission is to provide quality education to recently arrived immigrants by developing and networking small high schools based on the Internationals approach. For more information, please visit their website at: <http://www.internationalsnps.org>.



Our Approach: All our teachers are trained in the Internationals Approach to teach students to improve their speaking, writing, and reading skills in English. We believe that English language acquisition is best fostered in an academic environment in which students participate in

- 1) **Heterogeneous groups**
- 2) **Project based curriculum**
- 3) **English development integrated into all subjects**

Working in small groups, students learn academic content, art, music and technology through exciting, rigorous, hands-on projects as they learn their new language.

Our Students:

- **100% of our students are English language learners**, nearly all of whom immigrated to the US during the last 4 years.
- Collectively, our students speak **29 languages other than English**.
- Our students come from **over 31 countries** (including China, Mongolia, Philippines, Cambodia, Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Burma, Ghana, Gabon, Congo, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Eritrea, Iraq, Yemen, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Uzbekistan, Russia, Ukraine, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Cuba, and Mexico.)
- 52% of our students are Latino, 6% African, 36% Asian, 6% Arab or White.
- **Approximately 25% of our students hold refugee immigration status**, having escaped ethnic conflicts in Liberia, Bhutan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Afghanistan & Eritrea
- More than 90% of our students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch

