


Fall 12-2016

Finding Our Way: Female Students at Oakland International High School

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Recommended Citation

Germanov, Nicole M., "Finding Our Way: Female Students at Oakland International High School" (2016). *Master's Theses*. 169.
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Abstract

This thesis seeks to understand the experiences of the female students at Oakland International High School. Oakland International High School (OIHS) is a unique public school within the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) that serves entirely low-income, English Language Learner (ELL) populations. A quarter of the school's 376 students are refugees or asylees, who have fled their country due to persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group, 30% are undocumented, 24% are unaccompanied minors, and 47% are considered SIFE (students with interrupted formal education). However, one of the most outwardly noticeable things on the schools' campus is the overwhelming majority of male students. Females make up just 39% of the schools' total population, and thus have an entirely unique set of perspectives and outlooks towards the school, staff, and fellow students. Through focus groups, surveys, and observations, my research examined the questions, (1) How have your experiences shaped the way you function as a female student at OIHS? (2) How is OIHS working to meet your needs as a female student at the school? (3) What improvements could be made by the school to ensure your academic and socio-emotional success?

Please contact me directly if you are interested in the complete study:
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