

## Introducing the School and District

**Key Question:** Who and what do you need to know about the school and district to be successful?

**Directions:** Knowing the important facts about the school, the district, and who is important to your successful integration into the school culture is crucial to your success. Find the responses to these questions by using the school website; talking with secretaries, custodians, or teachers; or reviewing school printed materials. Walk around the school and see how many answers you can find! Don't forget to ask your mentor to introduce you to the important people on this list!

### School Scavenger Hunt

1. What is the name of the school, and why does it have this name? How old is the school? Also list the phone, e-mail, and website address.
2. How many students are enrolled in this school? What is the diversity of students by ethnicity? What are the languages spoken?
3. What are the official school hours? Are there recess times for students? What is the schedule for classes? When do teachers arrive at school and leave at the end of the day? What is the lunch period for teachers? Do you have lesson planning time? Will you have duties?
4. Is public transportation available to the school? If so, what is the schedule?
5. Is there a school theme or mission of the school? How is it displayed?
6. How is the school organized? What is the number of teachers at each grade level and in content areas?
7. How many experienced teachers are working at this school? How many teachers are in their first three years of teaching?
8. Who is the principal and who is the assistant principal? Who is the superintendent? (spelling of their names counts!)
9. How many specialist teachers are at the school? Will your students participate in these classes?
10. How will special education influence your teaching schedule? Are there paraprofessional aides?
11. Who are the secretaries and custodians you should get to know?
12. Is there a parent volunteer program? Will it relate to you?
13. Are there any special programs or activities at this school or in this district?
14. What are teachers most proud of in this school? (You may ask several teachers and compare.)
15. How does this school's image and reputation relate to other schools in the district and the state?

*Is there anything else you would like to know about the school or district? Ask your mentor!*