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SOCL 320

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School Structure Paper

The name of the school I am writing about is Hanover High School and it is located in Mechanicsville, Virginia. It is a suburban community because it is considered a suburb of Richmond with a population of about 37,000. Mechanicsville used to be very rural but the population has quickly increased and more businesses are being built. The county covers an area of about 28 square miles. 1,502 students attend Hanover High School and 139 staff are listed under the staff directory. The average student-teacher ratio is 24:1. The school involves a bureaucratic structure with the superintendent and school board at the top. Members of the Hanover County School Board are John Axselle, Robert May, Ola Hawkins, Robert Hundley, Steven Ikenberry, John Redd, and Georgen Sutton. Their job is to oversee each school and help build the educational vision of Hanover County. The next level involves the principal and administration at each school and they're in charge of managing their schools educational programming while producing a safe and efficient environment for students and staff. The principal of Hanover High School is Kristina Reece. The next level includes teachers. Their job is to prepare lesson plans and educate. This school runs on a decentralized structure meaning power is divided among a number of staff members. There are 8 other administrative positions other than the principal. The Hanover County program of studies describes their curriculum as student centered and community driven. At times, the school has issues with misconduct such as bullying, drugs, etc. Other problems involve teachers teaching outside of what their curriculum states and parents overly involving themselves in their child's education. The student code of conduct lists every disciplinary policy that the students are expected to follow. Corrective measures available to administration but are not limited to: warning, removal from class, Detention, ISS, etc. Students should not expose their midriff, chest, or private area and

are required to wear appropriate footwear. Students are unable to wear hats, sunglasses, or pajamas while in a school building. Like many schools, public funding is a huge issue within the district's education system which makes spending limited. Because of the abundance of students within the district, funding is not adequate at times so funding from other sources is necessary. The average salary for teachers at Hanover High School is \$54,587 while the principal, Kristina Reece, makes about \$105,000. Over the 2019-2020 school year, over 100 teachers resigned from Hanover County and the main reason was a lack of resources, not enough pay, and burnout. Hanover County is ranked within the top 10% of Virginia public schools. While they are highly ranked, schools nationwide had to deal with a lack of funding which pushed much stress on teachers and it pushed them away from the profession because they did not have access to adequate resources.

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