

Get To Know Partner Towns  
Survey Form-

Directions: This can be answered as a class if you wish so there can be multiple examples. The one for our town follows this blank form.

- 1) **What is a favorite place to go locally?**
- 2) **What is a good local restaurant & type of food there?**
- 3) **What is a description of the town and surrounding area?**
- 4) **What describes what your high school is like as far as schedule, classes, and things you like or not like about it?**
- 5) **What type of stores are there in your downtown area?**
- 6) **What parks or places of interest are there for teenagers to go?**
- 7) **If you were to take a friend visiting from out of town to a local event (at any time of year), what event would that be?**

**Answers to the above questions as they relate to our town Watsonville, California...**

- 1) A place called the **Santa Cruz Boardwalk** is located about 20 minutes away by car. We are at the coast, but Santa Cruz is more of a festive place to go to the beach. At the Boardwalk there is an amusement park with many rides for young kids and adults, including a roller coaster and other rides. There are many things to eat and one can go to the beach and hear bands which play there.

Another popular area is the **Capitola Mall**. It is about 15 minutes away by car and it is a shopping mall. The bigger ones are an hour away but this is fairly big if you want to go shopping locally.

- 2) A local restaurant favored by many locals is **Jaliscos**. They are a Mexican restaurant and since Watsonville is largely a Mexican American population, the food must be pretty good if they say so. It is a fun place to eat, they have live music, and it is a very popular place to go on the weekends. They hold large family parties there, too.
- 3) A description of Watsonville would be very diverse. **We have many strawberry and apple fields. Our largest most popular crop is the strawberry** and MANY of the parents of our students work as field laborers picking these crops. It is a very popular town for families to live who come from Mexico. They have families who stay here and then many of our students go back for extended Christmas vacations to spend with family back home.

On the other hand, many other areas of Watsonville have been developed and there are populated areas that have many new complexes or housing. We also have our rural and country like areas on the outskirts of town.

- 4) **Our school has about 1800 students.** We are divided into 5 separate “houses” which means students and teachers are grouped together into groups of about 400 students with 12 teachers.

Teachers have the same group of teachers and students see the same group of students in their classes which means they should be more successful because this arrangement promotes “personalized learning.” This means they know each other better and thus hopefully succeed more because of it.

**Half the school has one lunch** and then the **other has the later lunch** to avoid security issues. There is a gang problem which we will be dealing with at times and this avoids having all students out at one time with not as much supervision if this was not the case.

- 5) We have many popular chain stores like **Starbucks and Target** (a department store and more), but there are also many local smaller Latino music stores and markets. There is a plaza downtown which is the center of town.
- 6) Watsonville has a park named **Pinto Lake or Ramsay Park**. There are many soccer teams who play here locally. Skateboarding is also popular in these locations as are the places where families can come to barbeque and have picnics with their families.
- 7) Watsonville has an incredible Dia **De Los Muertos** celebrations and **Cinco De Mayo**. Both are important- the 1<sup>st</sup> is the Day Of The Dead and the other is Mexico Independence Day celebration. There is a huge festival that takes place in the Plaza downtown with music, great food, and many families coming out to enjoy this day. Merchants sell food and items to buy...it is very festive and well attended.