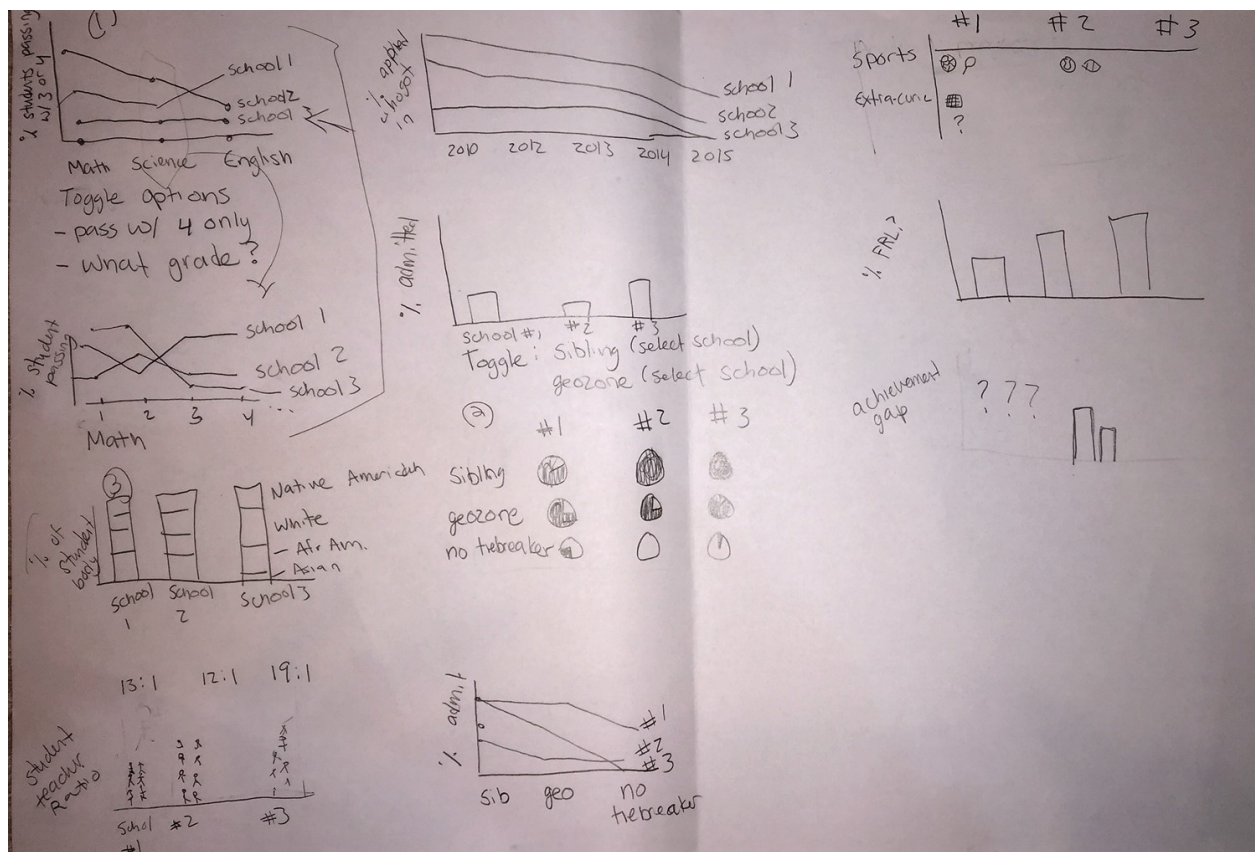# HCDE 511A/Group 2: School Choice
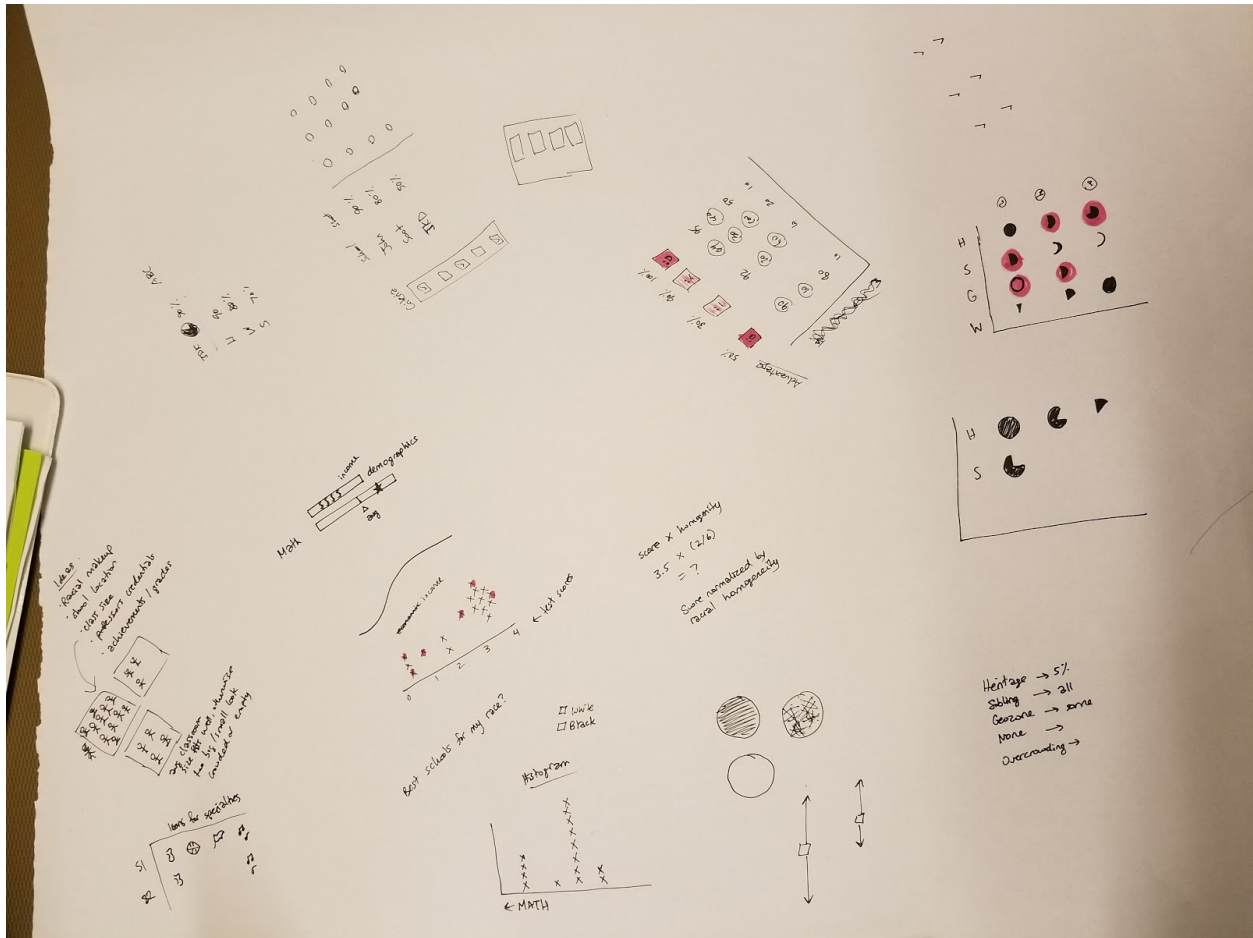
**John, Jane, Sarah, Joe**

The Five Design Sheet (FDS) activity was an excellent way for our group to first individually brainstorm potential ideas for our visualization, revealing different potential directions for what we want to eventually display, and it also provided a helpful framework for walking together through the actual features and operations we will build over the coming weeks.

Sheet 1 consisted of our individual brainstorms, after which we met to iterate and create sheets 2, 3, and 4 for the overall layout and operations. Our brainstorms had very little overlap. Individual team members tended to focus on different portions of the data.

Sheet 1a:

Sheet 1b:

Sheet 2 was our first design sheet. In this sheet we focused on fleshing out the details of the map portion of the visualization. In this section of the visualization, users can select which schools to include either by clicking schools on a map, or by selecting a radius from their home address.

Sheet 3 was used to expand on our ideas for visualizing our data around school performance metrics. For this part of our dashboard, users will be able to see achievement statistics for the schools selected on the map in the previous view. The initial visualization will be a summary of achievement scores for Math, English and Science but there will be details on demand as well. We want users to be able to select a school to view more detailed performance, select subjects to view achievement with grade level detail for that subject, performance, and potentially select a school and view performance by ethnicity. We are likely going to use a line chart to display performance for multiple subjects by school.
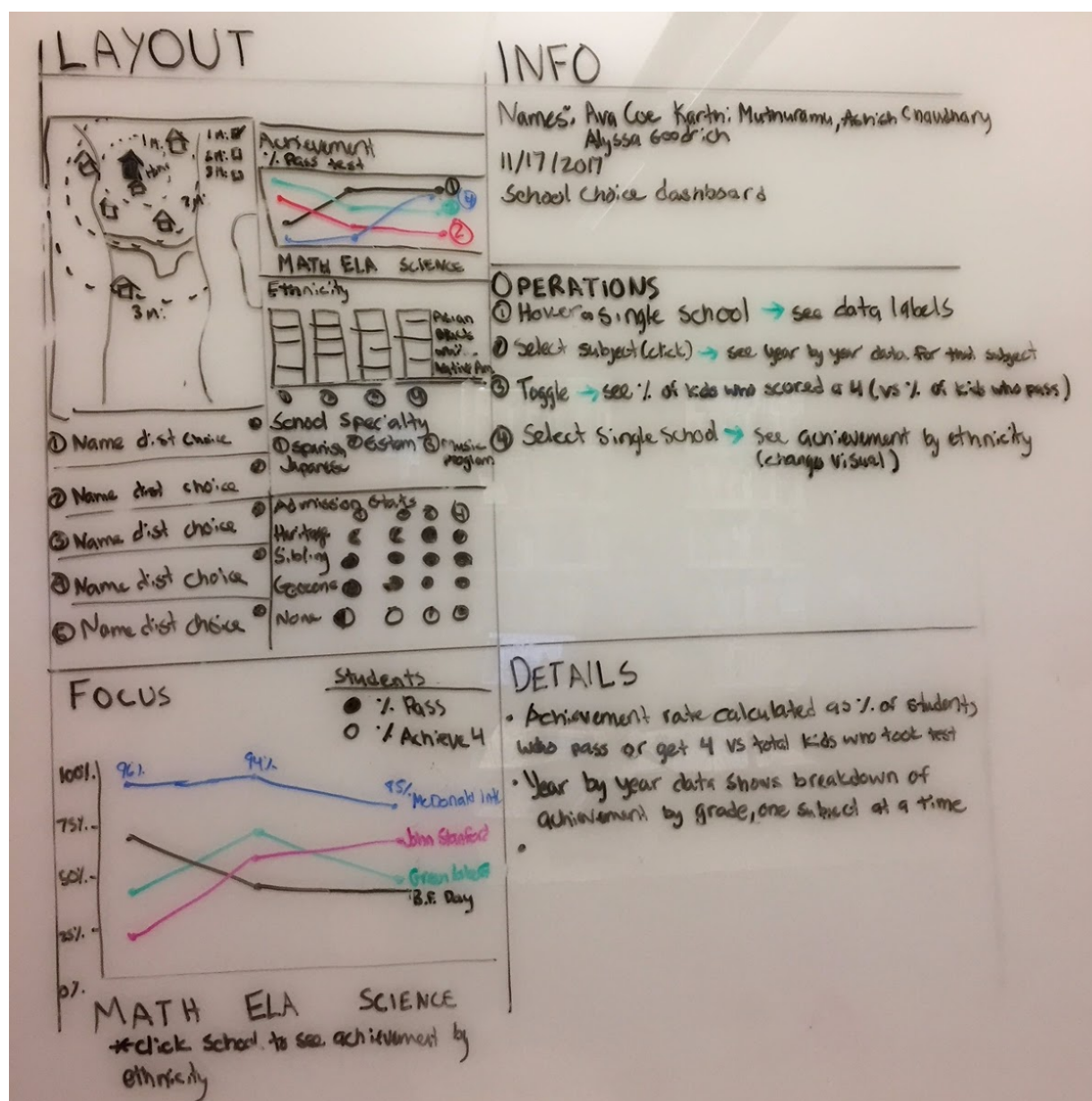
Sheet 4 was used to help us work out potential designs for representing the chances of getting into a particular school. Users will be able to select different pieces of information that apply to their particular situation (geo zone, heritage, sibling), and we want to display how likely it is they will get in based on prior admittance data.
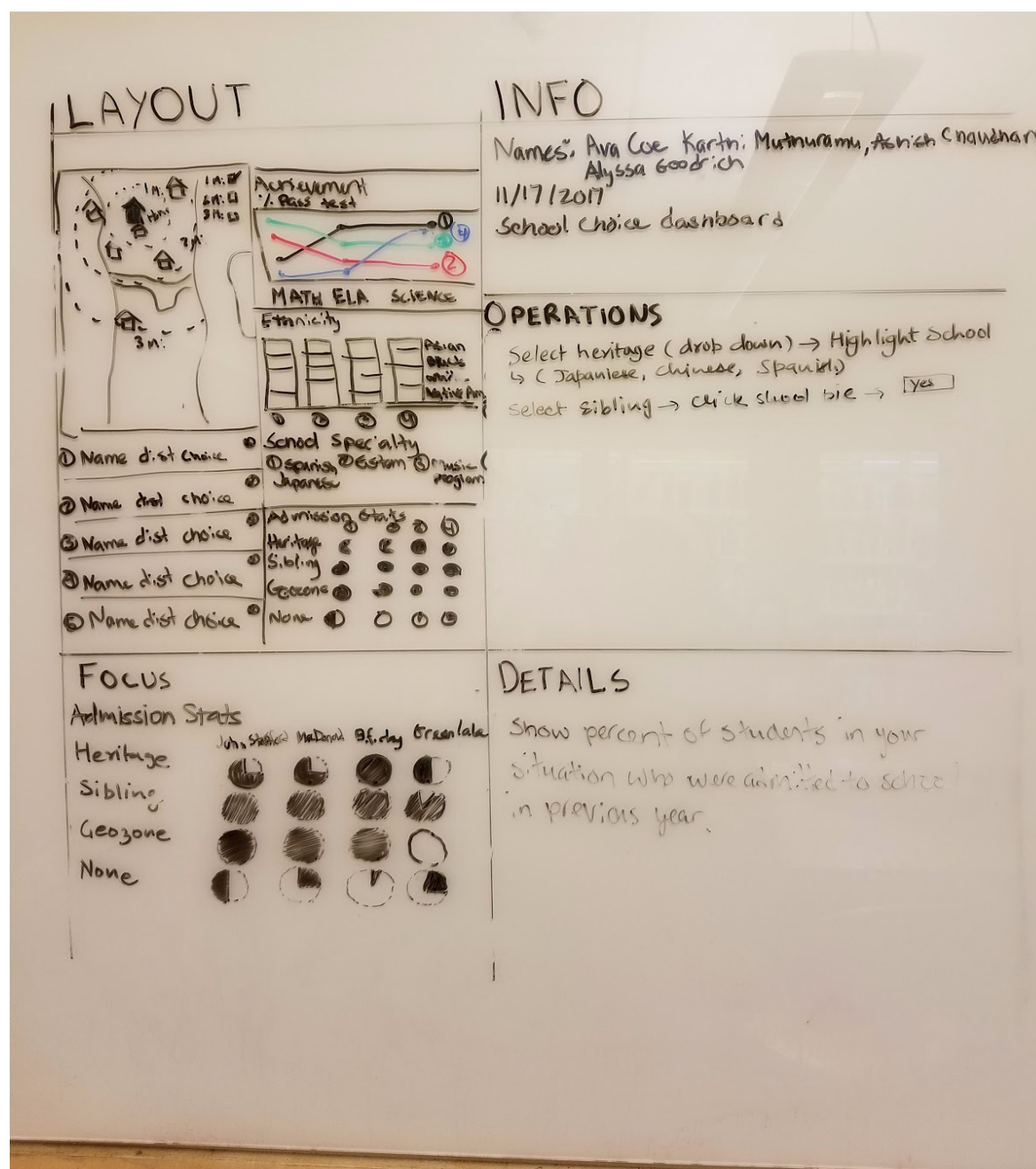


(Sheet 5 was not created for this activity)

Overall, we can see that this exercise helps designers walk through the actual operations that would be helpful for users based on the bigger ideas. The process began with a divergent thinking process which helped us get a lot of ideas on the table before determining the best way to move forward. Ultimately, after we categorized, combined and refined all our ideas we converged on a design that included different elements from everyone's brainstorm sketches. The brainstorming process definitely allowed us to access and consider a broad set of ideas before getting lost in the details of any one idea.

As we proceeded through the main design sheets the process of drawing out the details helped us to really think through how the visualization would help the task of determining which school to apply to. We often found ourselves carefully considering which details to display and in which format. For instance would a family who does not have a geozone preference be interested in seeing how likely they would be to be admitted if they did have that preference? Should we show it automatically or should it be a details on demand option? Some of us thought we should show it as several pie charts, while others prefered to just show the number. This process enabled us to consider those details carefully.

It's also a good reality check on what our limitations might be as designers. Going forward it will be interesting to run these ideas by actual users, to see if there are additional features users want. We're also looking forward to seeing what will be possible to actually create, based on the cleanliness of our data, and how we will actually create a dashboard as interactive as we want it to be.