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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OUSD API Test Scores Released

ORANGE, Calif., September 13, 2010—The Orange Unified School District announced today the academic growth District schools made on its Academic Performance Index (API) from spring 2010. The California Department of Education released API scores today for all California public schools. The API is a combination of results from the California Standards Tests, California High School Exit Exam, and other measures. Scores range from 200 to 1,000. Schools scoring below 800 receive an improvement target. The majority of OUSD schools have made significant gains. The District increased its API ten points to 806.

Focusing on student achievement was a priority for OUSD high schools this past year. For example, El Modena High School raised its API 12 points to 806 and Villa Park High School saw a 29 point gain to 807 to become the newest members of the 800 club.

“The teachers pushed hard this year and the students responded. I am very proud of the work my students put in to improve,” said Villa Park High School teacher Michelle Stewart.

Dr. Greg Bowden, Canyon High School principal, was pleased to see his school’s API rise 24 points to 847. “The significant growth in our API score can be attributed to two specific actions. First, the Canyon staff has been working to use assessment data on our students’ progress during the year to modify and focus their instruction. With the implementation of the Data Director program, we now have the tools necessary to regularly assess our students’ progress towards mastery of the Standards. Second, we shared with each of our students their individual progress over the past three years of testing in math and English, so they could understand what the STAR testing program means to them as individuals, and how their individual performance contributes to the overall academic success of the school.”

Additional secondary schools showing high API gains included:

- Richland Continuation High School +102 (557)
- Santiago Charter Middle school +46 (806)
- El Rancho Charter Middle School +24 (895)
- Portola Middle School +17 (734)

Fairhaven Elementary School raised its API 30 points to 751. In the past two years, Fairhaven has seen a total increase of 86 points. Bonnie Robinson, Fairhaven teacher said, “Our rise in test scores can be attributed to a combination of many factors. We began our year with a well-trained, collaborative, and enthusiastic staff that implemented a strong English Language Development Program and Strategic Schooling Strategies to help our students read and think critically. Through regular test chats and goal setting, our students knew what they had to do. In addition to focus on class instruction, our teachers provided many hours of after school tutoring support.”

Andrew Fisher, Fairhaven Elementary School principal added, “I contribute the API gain for Fairhaven elementary school to the partnership that has been created between parents, students, and teachers. Each person in the partnership is committed to support each other for the success of the child. Each knows their role in the partnership and what has to be done for the partnership to reach its goal.”

Cambridge Elementary School saw an increase of 41 points in their API to reach a mark of 765. Amy Martin, 3rd grade teacher at Cambridge stated, “I cannot put into words how proud I am of our improved scores which are a result of the collaborative efforts of the students and staff over the entire year. We have a goal-oriented program which along with our teachers' dedication, passion, and experience guides our students toward the standards of high academic achievement. This would not have been possible without all of us working together with selfless focus toward the goal of giving our students a greater chance of future success.”

Taft Elementary School’s API climbed 23 points to 762. Kelly Devine, Taft Resource Teacher, concluded, “Taft Elementary School’s academic success this year is attributed to strong grade level collaboration, reflection on best teaching practices, fidelity to the core program, rigorous English language development instruction, motivating all student through goal setting, and recognizing student achievement.”

Other elementary schools showing significant API gains included:

- Jordan Elementary School +28 (779)
- Lampson Elementary School +22 (716)
- Crescent Elementary School +20 (917)

OUSD schools scoring in the prestigious 900 API range are:

- Nohl Canyon Elementary 937
- Panorama Elementary 928
- Chapman Hills Elementary 925
- Crescent Elementary School 917
- Villa Park Elementary 916
- Serrano Elementary 911

Some District schools showed a decline in their API scores. The Educational Services Division is currently studying and analyzing areas of challenge that must be reviewed carefully to ensure that OUSD students continue to receive quality instruction. The Educational Services Division will engage in a continuous improvement monitoring and support for schools by assisting in the action planning and ensuring positive student outcomes.

Below is the California Department of Education link of all API scores for OUSD schools.

<http://tinyurl.com/2enjz5t>

The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA

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