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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEST RESULTS SHOW SIGNIFICANT GROWTH FOR OUSD STUDENTS

ORANGE, Calif., August 24, 2009 – The news is good for the Orange Unified School District's educational community. Last Tuesday, August 18, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell, released test results for students in grades 2-11 from the California Standards Test (CST).

The results indicated that OUSD students are continuing to make improvement in all content areas which include English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Science. The largest gains were seen in English/Language Arts (+4.2%) and Social Science (+4.9). "This is a result of the hard work and dedication of our outstanding teachers. I am proud of our staff, students and parent community. The success of our students is a true team effort," said Renae Dreier, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools for the Orange Unified School District.

OUSD students compared extremely well to others countywide. According to the Orange County Register, Chapman Hills Elementary School second graders ranked first in Mathematics in the county and second in the county in English/Language Arts. Fourth graders at Chapman Hills ranked second in English/Language Arts. Julie Lucas, Chapman Hills principal said, "We are so excited. This is the testament to our teachers. It shows that our teachers differentiate their instruction and meet the needs of all students." Second grade teachers Sarah Bovberg and Rebecca Adamiak agreed. "We spent a lot of time targeting student needs. We discussed what was working and not working," said Bovberg. Adamiak added, "Through collaboration we spent time designing and implementing an integrated curriculum that supported our students. "

In addition, fourth graders at Panorama Elementary School ranked first in English/Language Arts and McPherson Magnet ranked second in eighth grade English/Language Arts countywide.

Also scoring well was Cerro Villa Middle School which ranked first in Orange County in eighth grade Algebra I. Aileen Sterling, former Cerro Villa principal and current Executive Director of Secondary Education was more than pleased with the news. "This is a result of targeted instruction and effective instructional strategies." Andrew Castro, Cerro Villa Algebra I teacher, attributed their success to making a connection between the students and the curriculum. "I try to provide real world situations for every student. It is important to connect the why and how (to math) and not just the method," he said.

At the high school level, El Modena students showed significant gains in proficiency as well. They demonstrated marked improvement in English/Language Arts (7%) and World History (8%). El Modena principal John Briquelet credits his school community as whole in making a difference. "Here at El Mo we have a great teaching staff, terrific kids and parents." Briquelet also attributed the increase to, "...a more focused mastery of content standards. Teachers are collaborating and looking at specific student data." Vicki Mull, El Modena English teacher, said their success is based upon, "Meaningful articulation between teachers about specific students and coming up the approaches to better serve them." World History teacher Lowell Benner agreed that collaboration is key. He stated, "We are seeing the value in sharing results with one another."

To find your school click on the following link from the California Department of Education <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/>

Schools will now begin to deeply analyze the scores to determine areas of greatest need and make plans to strive for continuous improvement.

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

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