



CONTACT:

Larry Hausner
OUSD Office of Communications
Tel. (714) 628-5577
Cell (949) 244-3881

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santiago Charter Middle School Earns California Distinguished School Award

ORANGE, Calif., April 21, 2011—The Orange Unified School District is pleased to announce that Santiago Charter Middle School has earned the 2011 State of California's Distinguished School Award. Santiago's 46 point increase in its API score in 2010 enabled the school to apply for the honor. Their application focused on two successful signature practices that make Santiago unique, *Literacy across the curriculum* and *STRIVE*.

Literacy across the curriculum was implemented in order to meet the needs of an ever changing student population. By making this school-wide commitment to literacy, the staff hoped to achieve the following goals: 1) consistency and confidence among teachers on how to teach important strategies as summary writing and note-taking; and 2) establishment of explicit writing and note-taking frameworks that could be scaffolded and accessible for all students to use confidently in all curricular areas.

Additionally, the Santiago staff developed a recognition program called STRIVE— Success, Teamwork, Responsibility, Integrity, Values, and Effort. With this program, which rewards students for academic success and good behavior, the staff hoped to achieve the goals of increased overall CST scores, maintenance of a high attendance rate, and an overall atmosphere of positive behavior.

The Santiago Community is very proud of this honor and looks forward to continued success.

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

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