



CONTACT:

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OUSD Awarded \$232,700 Technology Grant

ORANGE, Calif., May 12, 2011—The Orange Unified School District is pleased to announce that it was awarded an Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Competitive Grant Round 9 for \$232,700 for Cerro Villa Middle School. Cerro Villa was the only school in Orange County to receive this grant. Cerro Villa's grant entitled, Project COOL (Creating Opportunities for Orange Learners), is a program for grades 7 and 8 language arts that utilizes technology to enhance teaching and promote learning by providing students with 21st century skills to better meet grade-level reading and writing standards. Monies will be used to provide for professional development and to purchase data scanning centers, portable laptop labs, desktop computers for Read 180, response systems (clickers), and teacher laptops at Cerro Villa Middle School.

Project COOL includes the following key components:

- ❖ Improving reading and writing skills for all target students through increasing technology literacy, including integration of the research-based Step Up to Writing process with technology tools, Blackboard, ePortfolios and Safe Assign.
- ❖ Developing reading and writing skills in struggling readers with READ 180 lab and tutoring sessions.
- ❖ Reducing the student-to-computer ratio from the present 10.5:1 average to 5:1 through the purchase of wireless class sets of laptops. Teachers will use laptops, LCD projectors (available at the school) and SMART Response Systems.
- ❖ Students will write research projects filled with rich visual detail and aligned to their language arts program while improving their 21st century skills.
- ❖ Featuring the online, digitized resources of the Prentice Hall adopted texts and teacher-created learning units within a password-protected environment to enrich and extend student work and enable teachers to provide assessment and immediate feedback.

Dr. Ken Miller, Cerro Villa Principal said, "This was a true team effort and is pretty special. I am so thankful to our teachers, classified staff and district office support to help with this grant and to bring our school into the 21st Century."

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

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