



## PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

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# Cerro Villa Becomes First WASC Accredited Comprehensive Public Middle School (Grades 7-8) in Orange County

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) granted Cerro Villa Middle School initial WASC accreditation (grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>) through June 30, 2017. Cerro Villa is the first comprehensive public middle school in Orange County to earn the award.

Cerro Villa's stellar staff preparations and beginning implementation of state standards and curriculum objectives, extensive use of innovative technology in classrooms, visionary principal leadership, collaboration amongst staff implementing 21<sup>st</sup> century instructional strategies infused with technology, strong parent and District support of the school's vision and key strategies were commended in the final WASC report announcing successful accreditation.

Following the initial application approval, a site inspection was performed to validate the schools' practices and policies. During the full day visit, WASC Executive Director Dr. Fred Van Leuven and the visiting committee met with administrators, teachers, support staff, parent group, district officials and students. The WASC committees also observed nearly every classroom on campus to validate Cerro Villa's "best practices" were being utilized effectively.

In addition, data regarding student preparation for high school and postsecondary education, intervention strategies, daily attendance and truancy rates, the amount of students in extracurricular activities and the amount of students in selected specialized courses, interventions and electives were taken in to account.

The District initiated the WASC process for middle schools to better align secondary educational initiatives from middle to high school. The WASC process has reinforced District planning with the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and will soon begin at the two other middle schools – Yorba and Portola Middle Schools – to provide a seamless transition in secondary and post secondary college and career student goals.

Former Principal Dr. Kenneth Miller stated, "We would take this opportunity to thank Dr. Fred Van Leuven and Mr. Tony Ferruzzo for their guidance and support through this valuable and energizing process. Our professional team can now see how we as a school will not only improve our service model in the current milieu but we will also nurture this opportunity to empower our students to achieve at optimal levels throughout their high school and postsecondary careers."

Please visit the following website for more information on WASC: <http://www.acswasc.org>

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