

East Whittier City School District

2007-2008: A Year of Achievement

The East Whittier City School District support staff, teachers, and leadership have a long history of promoting excellence. Working in concert, they have provided standards-based quality education for all of our students each and every day of the school year. This year-end summary provides only highlights or points of interest. The true excellence occurs each day in our classrooms.

- ∞ Ocean View School was selected as a California Distinguished School for the 4th consecutive time. Since each selection is for four years, we are all very proud to have a school in the district that has the continuous designation of California Distinguished School for 16 years running!
- ∞ Mulberry School has earned the distinguished honor of being a National High Achieving Title One School. This is an honor held by very few schools across the country.
- ∞ Student Services applied for and was chosen to receive a \$6 million grant from the federal department of education. This grant is focused on promoting safe schools with the district receiving \$1.5 million a year for four years.
- ∞ The decision of the Board of Education to use one-time funds to cover the predicted state funding shortfall rather than send out layoff notices to personnel, was very positive for the District. Staff morale amongst all employee groups remained high.
- ∞ District-wide student attendance improved significantly over the past two years. Our elementary schools= percentage of actual attendance rose from 95.54% to 96.36% representing .82% growth. Our middle schools improved their actual attendance from 95.25% to 96.23%, representing .95% growth, another example of the increased benefits to our students from our middle school reform efforts.
- ∞ Evergreen School successfully utilized additional funding from a High Priority Schools Grant and the Quality Education Improvement Act to gain 24 points on their school-wide API and was the District leader improving students= attendance over two years by 1.20%. Evergreen=s API has now increased a total of 249 points over the nine years of this state accountability system.
- ∞ Orchard Dale and Ceres teachers and parents worked together to improve student attendance. They followed closely behind Evergreen with 1.07% and 1.04% respectively.
- ∞ Ceres continued their phenomenal improvement in API scores with another gain of 17 points. Ceres has shown a gain every year since state testing began and has shown a gain of 336 points over this nine year time period.
- ∞ Murphy Ranch remains the highest scoring school in the District relative to the API with an impressive score of 888.
- ∞ Ocean View is the second highest scoring school in the District relative to the API with an outstanding score of 873.
- ∞ Granada Middle School was the first middle school in the District to go over the 800 mark in their API score with an 802 this year.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

2007-2008

- ∞ After implementing Professional Learning Communities in the middle schools of the District this past year, the overall API growth at the three middle schools totaled a whopping 60 points.
- ∞ East Whittier Middle School gets the top nod for the highest API gain for the year with an increase in their API of 32 points from 753 to 785.
- ∞ Ceres successfully implemented a Family English Night which allowed 10 families to increase their English proficiency skills. By helping these parents, their children benefited greatly.
- ∞ Special Education successfully implemented the STEP program. This program brought back eight students from Non Public Schools to the District. Traditionally, students who are placed in Non Public Schools are determined to be too disabled to be educated in district schools or programs.
- ∞ A retirement incentive program for certificated personnel helped 30 certificated employees make the move to retirement.
- ∞ The Special Education Autism Focus program made significant improvements with the addition of a district Program Specialist and training provided by a consultant.
- ∞ Information Services implemented both the School Messenger program at the K - 8 level and the TeleParent program at the middle school level. These programs allow increased communication from the schools to the parents. Automated calls allow teachers to address specific needs for their students as well as school offices and principals communicating important school information to the homes.
- ∞ La Colima organized a school-wide recycling project that resulted in 75% of the school=s paper and 50% of the bottles and cans being recycled.
- ∞ The District received the Physical Education Teacher Incentive Grant providing additional PE services at five of the District=s schools.
- ∞ A positive District and Union relationship was exemplified by the fact that negotiations were completed within one day with each union.
- ∞ Every District Teacher and every Instructional Assistant are now NCLB compliant and all Teachers are English Language Learner Authorized. This is an amazing accomplishment by our personnel department and our great staff.
- ∞ Scott Avenue was awarded the Tomorrow Garden Reading Grant. This resulted in many volunteer hours and a beautiful school outside reading area.
- ∞ East Whittier Middle School saw significant improvements to the campus including: six new classrooms, painting of the building and eagle mascot, a projector and laptop for every classroom, improvements to the gym, and a separate changing area for sixth grade students.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

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- ∞ Thanks to the QEIA Grant and the support of the Board of Education, Evergreen reduced class size in the entire school to 20 to 1.
- ∞ Hillview instructional strategies moved into the 21st Century with the addition of laptop computers for each teacher, LCD projectors for most classrooms and using United Streaming for instruction.
- ∞ La Colima Special Education teacher, Rebecca Garcia, represented the District last year as our Teacher of the Year.
- ∞ The Board of Education unanimously passed a Wellness First Board Policy developed by the Wellness Policy Advisory Committee and recommended by the Superintendent. This policy is far reaching in helping our students to improve their eating at school and their overall health.
- ∞ La Colima Teacher, Troy Icenhower received the BP for Energy GrantCa \$10,000 grant that provided a unique after school experience for La Colima=s students to learn how to live Agreen.@
- ∞ Laurel increased teacher collaboration time by implementing Grade Level Professional Development. Using this model, students are provided multimedia digital streaming derived from the social studies and science content standards, while teachers meet with administrators for professional development.
- ∞ Laurel also implemented 21st Century Learning strategies in allowing one student per class to participate in weekly workshops to learn media tools for the purpose of becoming the classroom technology leader.
- ∞ Leffingwell choreographed and performed its own musical. The performance contained close to half of the student population. A school parent and former teacher taught each grade level its own dance based on popular musicals. The dances were rehearsed at recess and the evening performance brought a full house.
- ∞ The Murphy Ranch community and staff worked together to make the 7th Murphy Ranch Summer Olympics a huge success. Happening only every four years, this event requires over 60 parent volunteers. All students in the school were able to participate in Opening Ceremony, varied athletic events and the Closing Awards Ceremony.
- ∞ With an over \$80 million budget, the outside financial audit of the District found no differences between the fund balances and the audited financial statements. Therefore no audit adjustments were necessary.
- ∞ Orchard Dale implemented the PE Run program to improve the physical health of its students. This program has the students in grades 1 through 3 completing a 10 minute Arun@ every day.
- ∞ The District=s Maintenance and Operations team completed an amazing four to six emergency calls per day all year long. Our own extremely competent staffs were also able to complete several remodeling projects throughout the district.

- ∞ Utilizing a summer work crew, our custodial staff completed a thorough cleaning of every classroom in the District.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

2007-2008

- ∞ A Full Day Kindergarten Pilot program was implemented at four schools in the District. Every assigned teacher and principal highly recommended the expansion of the program. District families responded very positively to this pilot and it has been significantly expanded for next year.
- ∞ A Visual and Performing Arts Plan was developed by a committee of District staff and parents. The Board of Education approved an implementation plan recommended by the Superintendent. This plan will bring all of the Arts to the students of the District over the next few years.
- ∞ Nutrition Services expanded breakfast services for students in the District and now serves breakfast to 11 of the District's 13 schools. A total of 185,000 breakfasts were served this year.
- ∞ Nutrition Services was able to provide new freezers to five schools this year and a milk cooler to another.
- ∞ The Purchasing Services Department implemented a new Asset Management Program this year and by using Strategic Sourcing, saved the District more than \$30,000 on purchases.
- ∞ The District has submitted our Department of Children and Family Services partnership program for a Golden Bell Award consideration. This is an exemplary program that has been presented at a national conference. With this program, a DCFS worker has his office at the EWCSO and works with our staff to protect children and unify families.
- ∞ Both CSEA and EWEA joined the District in completing training in Interest Based Bargaining. As we open full contracts for both of our unions, there is a joint interest in working together and utilizing the new tools that have been provided.