

50 Reasons to Give High Marks to Cabrillo Schools This Year

Despite faltering state and federal budgets... draconian reductions in state funding... and our first-ever, tsunami-based school closing, good things continued to happen in the Cabrillo Unified School District this year. Here are fifty (50) reasons to give your Coastside schools high marks as we near the end of another extraordinarily eventful and challenging 12-month period of time:

- 1) The District score on the all-important California Academic Performance Index (API) climbed four points to 785, exceeding the state's growth target and bettering the statewide score of 767 and the No Child Left Behind benchmark of 620;
- 2) Three District school sites bettered the state's API goal target of 800: Farallone View, Hatch, and Kings Mountain;
- 3) All four District elementary school sites have posted significant seven-year gains on the API:

	2002	2010	Growth
El Granada	717	777	+ 60
Farallone View	740	809	+ 69
Hatch	690	804	+114
Kings Mountain	741	929	+188

- 4) The Half Moon Bay High School score on the API climbed thirty points this year and HMBHS met or bettered growth targets for all student subgroups;
- 5) District students bettered the percentage pass rate of their County and State peers at the fifth and ninth grade levels on the annual California FITNESSGRAM® Physical Fitness Test. In grade five, 49.8% of the District students earned passing marks in all six areas, compared to 34.4% countywide and 28.7% statewide. In grade nine, the pattern held with 47.6% of our students meeting all six criteria compared to 39.7% countywide and 38.5% statewide;
- 6) District students bettered statewide Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target scores in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics;
- 7) El Granada Elementary began serving as host site for the newly created Special Day Class Pre-K kindergarten program;
- 8) The El Granada afterschool program, the Dolphin Club, is completing its fourth year of involving students in an intensive, supportive learning environment that is focused on the academic support and intervention, as well as a wide variety of enrichment classes;
- 9) The El Granada school community received a Barona Education Grant award check of \$5,000 for enhancements to the Science Lab;
- 10) Parents who live in the Moonridge community engaged in a fundraising effort on Mexican Independence Day that raised over \$2,000 to present to the Farallone View PTO in support of school programs;
- 11) Second and third graders at Farallone View performed The Comedy of Errors before a packed and appreciative audience;

- 12) Students at Farallone View enthusiastically engaged in a “make believe” trip to Australia in November to learn about Down Under culture, art, history, and geography... an innovative set of lessons that was chronicled on the front page of the Half Moon Bay Review;
- 13) Hatch Elementary continues to hold recognition assemblies three times a year to recognize students for perfect citizenship and punctual class attendance. Fifty-five students were so honored at the most recent assembly;
- 14) Hatch Elementary continues to serve as the flagship school site for the innovative Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) program and the first certified organic school garden in California;
- 15) Hatch Elementary created a new Student Leadership class and program for students this year;
- 16) Hatch Principal Mark Loos was recognized by the San Mateo County Reading Association for his Principal's Book of the Month Program;
- 17) At the end of the first semester, 39% of the Cunha Intermediate students earned honor roll recognition with grade point averages of 3.25 GPA or higher;
- 18) 73% of Cunha’s seventh grade students scored a 3 or 4 on the California State Writing Test (nearly doubling last year’s percentage of 46%);
- 19) Three of Cunha’s 24 athletic teams were league champions this year;
- 20) Twenty-five Cunha Intermediate students advanced to county-level science fair competition and eight advanced to the Regional Science Fair contest held in San Francisco;
- 21) 176 Half Moon Bay High School students combined to take 295 Advanced Placement tests;
- 22) HMBHS students combined to earn an average composite score of 25.1 on the ACT college entrance examination-- bettering scores earned by students statewide (22.2) and nationwide (21.0);
- 23) HMBHS students combined to earn the school’s highest-ever mark on the ACT science test (24.5);
- 24) HMBHS students combined to earn mean scores on the SAT college entrance examination in reading (535), mathematics (551), and writing (540)-- bettering scores earned by students statewide and nationwide on all three measures;
- 25) Half Moon Bay High School’s Personal Learning Plan Program was named a San Mateo County School Boards Association Kent Award winner;
- 26) Two new courses of study were approved at HMBHS: Agriculture Leadership and Advanced Algebra II;
- 27) Over 80 percent of HMBHS sophomores earned passing marks on the California High School Exit Exam on their first try;
- 28) Community support for HMBHS academic and athletic programs averaged over \$250,000 per year over the past three years;
- 29) Nine HMBHS seniors earned automatic acceptance into the University of California system on the basis of meeting all of the Eligibility in Local Context (ELC) criteria;
- 30) HMBHS students continue to earn acceptance letters from America's top universities including (but not limited to) Stanford, UC-Berkeley, UCLA, Vassar, Brown, Mills, Santa Clara, Duke, Rice, Brandeis, NYU, Loyola, American, Northeastern, Tulane, Cal Tech, and the Air Force Academy;
- 31) HMBHS student-athletes combined to win five league championships this year and Cougar Girls’ Basketball Coach John Carey was honored as San Mateo County Coach of the Year;

- 32) The HMBHS yearbook Las Olas was selected as a Josten's Yearbook Hall of Fame recipient from a pool of 3,000 eligible publications;
- 33) The District completed a successful “go live” transition to the Infinite Campus student data base system;
- 34) The District teamed with Pivot Learning to initiate the use of the Educator’s Assessment Data Management System (EADMS) to support the collection and analysis of data at the classroom level;
- 35) Work was completed on Building D modernization work as well as on quad and playground area resurfacing in time for opening of school at Cunha Intermediate;
- 36) A new security camera pilot program at Half Moon Bay High School was approved and implemented;
- 37) Citizens’ Measure E Oversight Committee Bylaws were approved and the Board appointed an eight-member Oversight Committee;
- 38) A District Technology Committee was established;
- 39) The first ever Districtwide Earthquake Drill was held using the new emergency two-way communication system to “check in” during the course of the drill;
- 40) Work was completed on the Building A (including office area) modernization work at Cunha Intermediate;
- 41) The District took a leadership role in planning and conducting the initial three Coastside Ready Schools team meetings to articulate preschool through third grade curriculum and services;
- 42) New safety signs were installed at all CUSD sites and district office;
- 43) The District served as a partner organization in a well-attended No Bully Workshop held at HMBHS;
- 44) The library management software system was updated at all sites (Follett Destiny);
- 45) Four Migrant Education Program supplemental grants to fund summer intervention programs were completed and submitted;
- 46) A Migrant Education Even Start grant application to provide preschool services next year was completed and submitted;
- 47) A comprehensive report was compiled and presented to the Board and general public on bullying (best practices for prevention and intervention);
- 48) The District responded to an OES declaration of “tsunami warning resulting in school closure; teamed with Red Cross and other agencies in staffing and operating emergency shelters at Farallone View Elementary and Half Moon Bay High School;
- 49) A District Ad Hoc Solar Energy Committee completed work on a Request for Information (RFI) that is the next logical step in considering whether to initiate one or more alternative energy projects in the foreseeable future; and
- 50) A parent portfolio system for migrant parents was implemented to better support student achievement. The portfolio offers a means for parents to gather and utilize academic data on their children.