

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

325 S. Peck Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Carolyn Seaton, Executive Director, Educational Services
Manhattan Beach Unified School District
310-318-7345, x5989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mira Costa High School Teacher Bill Fauver Honored as One of L.A. County's "Sweet Sixteen" Teachers of the Year

Manhattan Beach, CA, September 21, 2010

Mira Costa High School's **Bill Fauver** was honored on Monday as one of sixteen total winners distinguished as the 2010-2011 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year, representing the profession's "best of the best" in the state's largest honors competition for K-12 educators. At a morning ceremony, the "Sweet 16" were revealed by Los Angeles County Interim Superintendent of Schools Jon R. Gundry as outstanding educators who have been serving with praiseworthy distinction. Judged as the county's top public school teachers for this academic year, they will serve as standard-bearers for the teaching profession and their 80,000 classroom colleagues countywide.

Mr. Fauver began his teaching career at Mira Costa High School in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District in 1986 after completing his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and teaching credential at UCLA. While he has served as yearbook and activities advisor and even one year as vice principal for the school, Mr. Fauver's true passion has always been teaching history. He is particularly known on campus for his highly rigorous and outstanding Advanced Placement U.S. History course. 96% of his students earned a passing score on this exam in 2009 as compared with 54% of students in California and 52% of students in the United States who took the same exam that year.

Before Mr. Fauver earned L.A. County Teacher of the Year status, he participated in the rigorous Manhattan Beach Unified School District Teacher of the Year process. After being named as Mira Costa High School's top educator, Mr. Fauver and the Teachers of the Year from the other six MBUSD school sites were observed and interviewed by a committee of eight individuals comprised of teachers and administrators representing different levels and disciplines. The district committee had the daunting task of selecting the one teacher out

of a field of exceptionally talented educators who would represent Manhattan Beach at the county level. “While all of the site Teachers of the Year were outstanding, Bill Fauver stood out because of his lesson design, the level of engagement his students displayed during the lesson observation, and his ability to articulate his personal philosophy of teaching during the interview,” stated Carolyn Seaton, MBUSD’s Executive Director of Educational Services.

After earning the honor of MBUSD Teacher of the Year, Mr. Fauver embarked on the Los Angeles County Office of Education’s (LACOE’s) Teacher of the Year process that included being interviewed by a panel and submitting essays, lesson plans, and other materials to judging panels comprised of peers.

MBUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Matthews affirmed, “Bill Fauver exemplifies the very best in this profession of public education. He knows that every day in his history classroom is a precious opportunity to guide students toward the understanding that knowledge of our past is essential to their future.” Principal Ben Dale added, “Mr. Fauver is an inspiration to students - always challenging them to stretch the limits of their academic capabilities. He is an engaging facilitator in the classroom, and students come away from his class every day with an increased understanding and passion for history.”

When he was notified that he was being considered for the honor of L.A. County Teacher of the Year, Mr. Fauver stated, “If I were lucky enough to be named as a County Teacher of the Year, I would be ecstatic on the one hand and humbled on the other. I come from a school where there are dozens of teachers that could be an L.A. County Teacher of the Year, and I dare say that is probably the case for many schools in L.A. County. So it would be certainly gratifying to be recognized as a good teacher—that you’re doing well in the profession that you have chosen—but it would be awfully humbling as well.” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell participated in the announcement of the Sweet 16, who all automatically advance with other county titlists from around the state to the California Teachers of the Year competition this fall. The state is scheduled to announce its five co-winners in November, but only one of those state co-winners will be chosen to represent California in the National Teacher of the Year contest next spring.

About the Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Manhattan Beach Unified School District ranks as the third highest performing unified school district in the State of California with a 2010 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) of 926. MBUSD serves nearly 6,900 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Mira Costa High School’s API places it in the top 1.3% of public high schools in California, and it was named number fifteen in ESPN’s “Fab 50” High Schools in the Unified States in 2010 for its superior athletic programs. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with the Manhattan Beach Education and Athletic Foundations, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Northrop Grumman, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.