PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANHATTAN BEACH USD EARNS AN IMPRESSIVE 2011
GROWTH ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORE OF 932

Manhattan Beach, CA, September 6, 2011

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, MBUSD's Superintendent of Schools, announced the release of the state's 2011 Academic Performance Index (API) accountability report for the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. The district's 2011 Growth API is now at an all-time high of 932, maintaining MBUSD's status as the third highest K-12 unified school district in the state. The Growth API of 932 indicates a five-point gain over last year's 2010 Base API of 927.

Dr. Matthews noted, "I am proud to report that for the first time, all seven K-12 schools in MBUSD have earned an API over 900." Mira Costa High School surpassed the 900 API milestone with a Growth API score of 911, joining a small number of comprehensive high schools in the state to achieve that goal.

"Mira Costa High School's 12-point gain in their API is particularly impressive," stated Carolyn Seaton, Executive Director of Educational Services. "This improvement is attributable to the increase in the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the California Standards Tests (CSTs) in every academic area – English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The biggest areas of growth were on the CSTs in English-Language Arts and Science, which posted gains of 5.5 and 5.0 points, respectively, in the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced. The only dip for Mira Costa was on the Science End of Course tests on which the number of students scoring proficient or advanced dropped a minor 0.1 percentage point."

The District's five point increase in the 2011 Growth API is in part due to the increase in science scores in all schools since 2007. The aggregate percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the Science CSTs for MBUSD is a notable 91.4%. "One of the Board's goals for the 2011-2012 school year is to maximize district teaching expertise and student learning in STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We are proud of our high quality science teaching and quite pleased with our student progress," said Dr. Matthews. Bill Fournell, President of the MBUSD Board of Trustees, commented, "Because of the Board's focus and the generous support of the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation and our community, our K-12 science program continues to serve our students extremely well despite the state's economic challenges."

"The growth in our science scores," added Ms. Seaton, "is undoubtedly attributable to the District's ardent focus on hands-on science at all grade levels. It's no surprise that students comprehend and retain scientific concepts at a deeper level when they have multiple opportunities to interact in a lab setting. Hands-on science transforms abstract scientific theories into relevant concepts."

The 2011 Growth API scores and the Base API scores for each school for 2008, 2009, and 2010 are listed below:

School	2008 API (Base)	2009 API (Base)	2010 API (Base)	2011 API (Growth)
MBUSD	907	914	927	932
Grand View Elementary	930	955	955	957
Meadows Elementary	936	948	937	946
Pacific Elementary	965	963	961	960
Pennekamp Elementary	949	966	957	948
Robinson Elementary	964	965	965	962
Manhattan Beach MS	934	935	941	945
Mira Costa High School	864	872	899	911

Two of the district's elementary schools, Meadows and Grand View, posted gains in their API numbers, with Meadows improving a significant nine points from last year's base. Robinson and Pacific Elementary Schools posted minor losses in API of three points and one point, respectively. Pennekamp Elementary School's API Growth Score of 948, while a very strong result, is nevertheless a decrease of nine points from the previous year. Ms. Seaton commented, "With schools that have very high APIs, such as all of our elementary schools, there is an increasing susceptibility to year-to-year fluctuations. While the state's growth target for schools with an API above 800 is to remain at or above 800, MBUSD strives for continuous improvement. We will use our student data system, Illuminate, to disaggregate the API and previously reported STAR scores and use what we learn to modify teaching practices and continue to improve student achievement."

The state's Academic Performance Index is reported for the district as a whole and for numerically significant subgroups of students within the district. Numerically significant subgroups are defined as those that consist of at least 100 students or those that consist of between 50-99 students that make up at least 15% of the student population. In Manhattan Beach, these groups include Black or African American, Asian, Hispanic or Latino, Two or More Races, and White students as well as Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students and Students with Disabilities. Results from the 2011 API reveal significant growth in all but two numerically significant subgroups, White (-1) and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (-7).

MBUSD 2010 Base and 2011 Growth API by Significant Subgroups

	Base API 2010	Growth API 2011	Growth
MBUSD	**927**	**932**	**+5**
Black or African American	825	853	+28
Asian	956	964	+8
Hispanic or Latino	879	900	+21
Two or More Races	930	966	+36
White	935	934	-1
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	844	837	-7
Students with Disabilities	773	778	+5

Approximately 12% of the students tested are students with disabilities. Ms. Ellyn Schneider, Executive Director of Student Services, is happy with the overall increase in the API score for students with disabilities. "I am pleased with the five-point gain in the Growth API for our students with disabilities. Our special education staff works tirelessly to ensure that all of our students with disabilities succeed. Our teachers have been examining assessment results and using that data to develop and implement new interventions for each student."

Dr. Matthews praised the hard work of teachers, administrators, support staff, students, and parents that has led to the district's continued growth in API. "As the Superintendent, one of my main responsibilities is to keep our focus on outstanding teaching practices and student learning. We need to examine those areas in which we are

achieving excellent results and learn from the successful practices that led us there. However, since continuous improvement is our goal, we also need to identify our least successful areas and determine more effective strategies to support our students in mastering those standards. With clear goal-setting and a true focus on the best instructional practices from kindergarten through twelfth grade, I am certain that increasingly more MBUSD students will demonstrate the high level of academic success we want for all of our students in the district."

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 2011 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) of 932. MBUSD serves nearly 7,000 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 of 911 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.