

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2011 STAR RESULTS FOR MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT INDICATE CONTINUED GROWTH

Manhattan Beach, CA, August 15, 2011

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, MBUSD's Superintendent of Schools, announced the release of the 2011 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program results for the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. The 2011 STAR aggregate results for MBUSD reveal modest gains when compared with the 2010 results in the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the California Standards Tests (CSTs) in English-Language Arts and Mathematics. More significant gains occurred on the CSTs in History and Science (up 5.8 percentage points and 3.9 percentage points, respectively, in the number of students scoring proficient or advanced). The only dip in scores when compared with last year is 0.3 percentage points in the number of students earning proficient or advanced on the MBUSD STAR Science end-of-course tests.

In the spring of 2011, the majority of MBUSD students in grades 2 through 11 were assessed using the California Standards Tests (CSTs). The California Standards Tests (CSTs) measure what children at each grade level should know and be able to do based on State-adopted content standards. The CSTs cover English-language arts and mathematics for grades 2 through 11; history-social science for grades 8 and 11 as well as a world history end of course test typically administered in grade 10; science for grades 5, 8, and 10, and end of course science tests in biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics for students in grades 9-11. Performance levels for the CSTs are reported as: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic, and Far Below Basic. The state target is for all students to score at the Proficient or Advanced level on the CSTs.

STAR scores at Mira Costa High School revealed impressive growth in almost every area when compared with the 2010 data. 87.1% of the students at MCHS scored proficient or advanced on the STAR CSTs in English-Language Arts, up 5.5 percentage points from last year. The Science CST results show a 5.3 percentage point gain in the number of students earning proficient or advanced, while History CST scores jumped 4 percentage points to 84% proficient and advanced when comparing 2011 data to last year's numbers. The only area showing a decline was a 0.3 percentage point drop in the number of students scoring proficient or advanced on the STAR Science end-of-course tests.

Manhattan Beach Middle School STAR CST Scores remained extremely strong with over 90 percent of the students scoring proficient or advanced in English-Language Arts, Science, and History. In fact, students earning the proficient or advanced level in History in 2011 grew by an impressive 7.6 percentage

points over last year. 84.7 percent of MBMS scored proficient or advanced in Mathematics, a slight decrease of just 0.2 percentage points from 2010.

The 2011 STAR CST scores for all five elementary schools remained extremely strong and mostly consistent with the results from the prior year. Notable exceptions are strong gains in the fifth grade Science CST scores at Meadows Elementary where the number of students scoring proficient or advanced grew 7.4 percentage points and Robinson Elementary, where 100% of the students scored proficient or advanced.

“For the second consecutive year, the improvement in Mira Costa High School’s STAR data is particularly impressive,” stated Dr. Michael Matthews, Superintendent of Schools. “The percentage of students who scored at the proficient or advanced levels increased significantly on the CSTs in English-Language Arts, History, and Science..”

“The Board of Trustees has made a commitment to improving and expanding science instruction at all levels. We are proud of our high quality science teaching and very pleased with our student progress,” said Bill Fournell, President of the MBUSD Board of Trustees.

Dr. Matthews praised the hard work of teachers, administrators, and support staff, the outstanding support of parents and the community, and the commitment of students to take the state tests seriously that has led to the District’s continued growth on the STAR California Standards Tests.

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.