

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Manhattan Beach Unified School District**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **2012 STAR RESULTS FOR MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SHOW CONTINUED GROWTH**

**Manhattan Beach, CA, September 4, 2012**

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, MBUSD's Superintendent of Schools, announced the release of the 2012 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program results for the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. The 2012 STAR aggregate results for MBUSD revealed continuing gains when compared with the 2011 results in the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the Mathematics and Science California Standards Tests (CSTs). More significant gains occurred on the CSTs in Science End-of-Course (EOC) and English-Language Arts, where the percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced rose 4.3 and 2 points, respectively. The only dip in scores when compared with last year was in the area of History which showed a drop of 0.9 of a percentage point from 84.0% to 83.1% of students scoring in the upper two performance levels of proficient and advanced.

In the spring of 2012, 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 demonstrated gains in both areas of Science, CST and EOC, which rose 1.4 and 4.3 percentage points, respectively. History displayed a statistically insignificant drop of just 0.1 of a percentage point, from 81.0 to 80.9 percent of students scoring proficient or advanced. Also presenting very slight drops were ELA (down 0.3 of a percentage point) and Math (down 1.1 percentage points) to 86.8 and 66.6 percent of students scoring proficient and advanced, respectively.

Manhattan Beach Middle School STAR CST scores for 2012 remained extremely strong with over 90 percent of the students scoring proficient or advanced in ELA, History, and on the Science CST. Scores on the ELA, Math, and Science CSTs all exhibited gains in the percent of students scoring proficient or advanced when compared to last year. ELA scores rose 1.2 percentage points, Math gained 1.7 percentage points, and Science CST gained 2 percentage points. History scores revealed a modest decrease from 91.3 percent in 2011 to 90.2 percent of the students in 2012 scoring proficient or advanced.

The 2012 STAR CST scores for all five elementary schools remained very strong. Grand View, Pacific, and Robinson exhibited over 90% of students scoring proficient or advanced in all three areas tested: ELA, Mathematics, and CST Science (grade 5). Pacific's scores indicated gains in the percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced in all areas, while Grand View and Meadows showed gains in ELA and Math. Science scores stayed the same at Meadows and dipped 4.7 percentage points at Grand View. Robinson's ELA CST scores jumped a significant 8.1 percentage points from 87.5 to 96.7 percent of students meeting the proficient or advanced benchmark. Robinson demonstrated decreases in Math and Science CST scores when compared to 2011; still, over 90% of students scored proficient or advanced in those areas. While Pennekamp's scores in the three areas tested decreased when compared with the 2011 data, their fourth grade writing scores were the highest in the district. 71% of Pennekamp's fourth graders earned the highest rubric score of 8 on their writing sample while the remaining 29% earned the second highest score of 6.

“I am proud that MBUSD’s overall student achievement continues to rise. We have begun major initiatives in writing and technology, and we believe they will result in more engaged students who demonstrate even higher achievement in future years. I am continually astounded by the high quality teaching that occurs throughout MBUSD. I thank our teachers, administrators, staff, parents and community for their support that has led to the District’s continued growth on the STAR California Standards Tests.”

Added Ellen Rosenberg, President of the MBUSD Board of Trustees, “The Board is extremely pleased to see continued growth in the District’s STAR scores, and we are especially gratified to see increases in the Science CST and End of Course scores this year. Providing an outstanding education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) is one of the Board’s goals. On behalf of my fellow trustees, I thank MBEF and Chevron for their continued support of science education in MBUSD, and I recognize our science teachers for providing numerous opportunities for students to learn science through hands-on, experimental activities.”

## **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](http://www.mbusd.org).