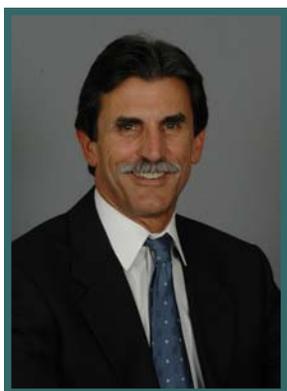


Unified

Committed to Excellence



In this issue of our San José Unified Newsletter, we highlight our "top ten" recent accomplishments that set us apart from the rest of urban school districts. In spite of challenges, our school district, in many ways, is the most successful urban school district in the State of California. Our test scores this past year showed significant gains in mathematics in our elementary schools and huge growth in language arts at many of our schools in our state Academic Performance Index (API). Our high school graduation requirements are among the most rigorous in the nation and our students have risen to the occasion and graduate in large numbers well prepared for higher learning. Last spring, we surveyed our graduating seniors regarding their plans for higher education and found that out of 88% surveyed, 96% of them plan to attend higher education. This includes 52% going on to a four-year university and 44% moving on to community college. Additionally, we have a large number of our schools that are award-winning and have been

recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools or California Distinguished Schools.

The smooth operation of a large school district is challenging and we are proud to have been recognized, two years in a row, for being one of the best managed school districts in the state. Thanks to the voters of San José, we have successfully passed two bonds for school construction that have allowed us to modernize our facilities and provide the type of quality classrooms and structures our students need and deserve. The San José business community has been supportive of our students and provides many partnerships that assist us in providing a top quality education to all of our students, regardless of socio-economic background. Our School Board members and staff are absolutely committed to insuring that our students have the opportunity to thrive and succeed in school and we provide necessary interventions for students if they need additional support and help with learning. We have a unique school district that provides

a variety of options and choices for our students and their families through our Magnet programs, including visual and performing arts, International Baccalaureate, Montessori, Spanish Language Immersion and a Science Magnet.

All of these programs are possible because we listen and encourage parent participation and community involvement through our public engagement program, and strive to be responsive to our students' needs.

Our commitment to you is a safe, healthy learning environment that allows us to provide opportunity and excellence for each and every child we serve. Working together, we can open a world of excitement and possibilities for our students.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Iglesias". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Iglesias
Superintendent

Brown Bag Dates

- Tuesday, October 25
- Wednesday, November 16
- Thursday, January 26
- Thursday, February 16
- Thursday, March 30
- Thursday, April 27
- Thursday, May 25

All Brown Bags are from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. and will be held in Room 337.

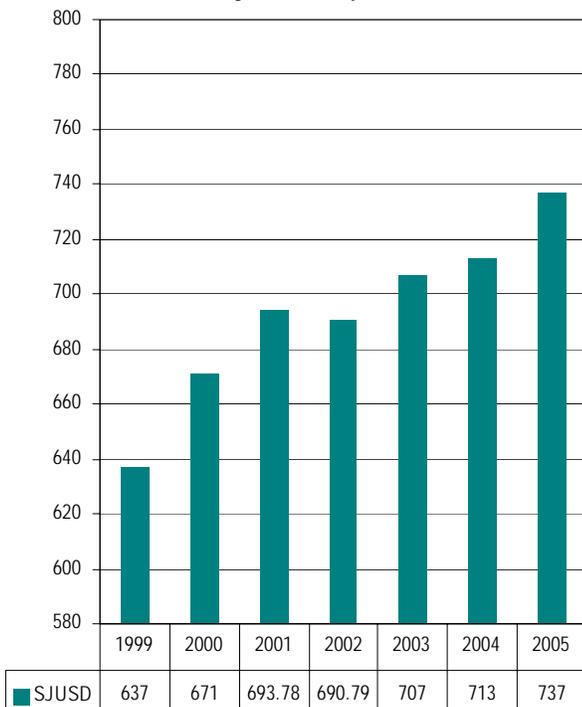
SJUSD'S Top 10



We are honored to provide your children with a quality education delivered by a committed and well-trained staff. We are proud of our school district and the accomplishments we have achieved over the last several years. At the same time, we are constantly striving to improve programs and inspire our students to compete and succeed in an increasingly complex world.

1 Improving Test Scores

**SJUSD Academic Performance Index
7 years of improvement**



San José Unified's Academic Performance Index has grown by 100 points over the past seven years. The index was begun in 1999 as the state's most critical measure of performance by individual schools. The API combines performances from several tests that the state administers each year. These include the California Standards Tests, the California Achievement Test (Version 6), the California Alternate Performance Assessment (for students with severe disabilities), and the California High School Exit Examination. Each year, each school has a specific growth target on the API. The goal is for all schools to eventually reach an API of 800.

San Jose' Unified has made big improvements in meeting federal standards for school performance. Under No Child Left Behind, performance by schools and entire districts is measured by the percentage of students who score Proficient or Advanced on the California Standards Tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics. In 2002, when federal standards were first set as baselines, San José Unified has grown by 10 percentage points in English Language Arts and 13 percentage points in Mathematics. Each year, all students at Grades 2 through 11 are tested in how well they meet rigorous standards that have been set by the state for each grade level.

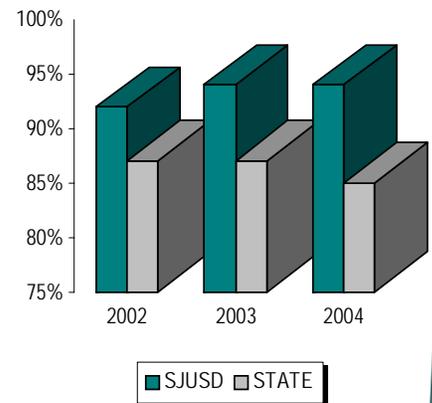
2 High Graduation Requirements

A-G high school subjects are those courses required for admission to the California State University (CSU) or University of California. As the state-wide pioneer, San José Unified was one of the first districts to implement a requirement that all students take A-G courses to graduate from high school. Three years of data on graduates show a sustained graduation rate of about 93%. There has been no decline from previous graduation rates, and no increase in dropouts. Rather than declining, the grade

point averages of graduating seniors are on the rise. Sixty-five percent of the graduates have passed every one of the required courses for entrance to the state's university systems with a C or better and are eligible to enter directly out of high school. Statewide the percent is 34%. Even more dramatic, 45% of the Hispanic graduates are university eligible right out of high school compared to 22% statewide and enrollment of Hispanic students in Advanced Placement courses has more than dou-

bled. Test scores on every state and national exam, including the California Standards Tests, the California High School Exit Exam and the Scholastic Aptitude Test are steadily increasing each year since this reform was put in place. Perhaps most importantly, the focus on high school graduation has driven higher standards and expectations all the way down to kindergarten. Perhaps the area most intriguing is the steady progress in closing the achievement gap at every level.

Graduation Rate



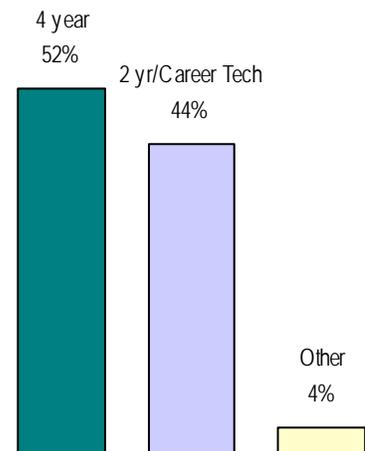
3 College Going Culture

For the first time a district-wide Senior Exit Survey was administered to all graduating seniors at SJUSD's 6 comprehensive high schools. Eighty-eight percent of the students responded. Of those responding, 96% have plans for post secondary education. UC Berkeley, Yale, MIT, UCLA, Stanford, Harvard, Cal Poly

and UC San Diego are among the many destinations for 52% of the graduates attending 4-year universities. Community colleges and career tech have been chosen by 44% of our students and the remaining 4% are headed for the military or directly into the workforce. SJUSD's requirement for all students to take

UC/CSU classes has a direct impact on the eligibility and opportunity for students' acceptance into the 4-year universities. Focus groups were conducted asking students about their experiences and challenges while attending San José Unified schools. The students were very candid. Some of their quotes are below.

2005 Senior Exit Survey Postsecondary Plans



During my freshman year, my World Cultures teacher stood up in front of the class and said, "This class is going to be tough, you will get into college and I'm here to support you." I felt supported.

My 6th grade math teacher influenced me the most. She taught me how to have confidence in myself and be good at something. My teacher believed in me so much.

They (teachers and administrators) take time to help me and talk to me about college-explaining the options I have. The administration was always there saying, "right on." They are always so positive and encouraging us to go to college. There was so much support for everyone.

When I got to high school I didn't know I needed to take these classes. There was so much college talk I realized how important it was to take the A-G courses. It's wonderful to see so many kids that would not have gone to college having the opportunity to go to college because of the A-G requirement.



30 San José Unified schools have been named California Distinguished Schools

11 have been honored as National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

4 Award Winning Schools

SJUSD is strongly committed to preparing our schools for the rigorous self-assessments that are the backbone of the highest national and state exemplary school recognition programs. The *National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence* and *California Distinguished School Awards* Programs identify comprehensive criteria common to exemplary and inspirational schools. Schools receiving these awards demonstrate a commitment to furthering the intellectual, social, moral, and physical growth of all

students, including those with disabilities and English language learners. These schools offer instructional programs that meet the highest academic standards, have supportive and learning-centered school environments, and achieve significantly above average results. To date, 30 San José Unified schools have been named CA Distinguished Schools and 11 have been honored as National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence.

Facts

- The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, established in 1982 is the highest and most prestigious Exemplary Program award a US school can attain.
- National Blue Ribbon schools represent the top 1% of schools in the country.
- California Distinguished School Program was established in 1985, and is considered one of the most rigorous statewide award programs in the US.
- California Distinguished Schools represent the top 3% of schools in the state.

5 Performance Excellence

The California Council for Excellence (CCE) is a non-profit, tax-exempt educational foundation whose mission is to help California's private and public sector organizations achieve world-class results through the principles and criteria of the Malcolm Baldrige Award (MBNQA) for Performance Excellence. The Eureka

Award for Performance Excellence™ is the top level award offered by CCE. The award adheres to the MBNQA criteria. The Eureka Award offers seven categories. They are: Large and Small Service; Education; Healthcare; Non-Profit; Government; and, the Military/ Armed Forces. The award consists of a full Baldrige-based application using the most current criteria of the MBNQA. San José Unified is the only school district in California to have received the top level silver award and the only school district to receive the award two years in a row.

The awards acknowledged SJUSD as one of the best managed school districts in the state. Important strengths listed in the report included credibility in dealing with current budgetary issues by involving the community in making the hard choices. Outstanding practices included the District's ongoing engagement with the community and using a data driven focus on student achievement tailored to meet the multiple needs of the affected demographic segments in each school. This includes innovations in language immersion and other magnet schools.



6 Strong Financial Management

Since 1997, San Jose Unified has demonstrated a positive bond rating of AAA (Standard and Pours). The rating is based upon factors such as strong financial management and low-debt burden. Very few school districts in the nation have a bond rating this high. Our major funding source is dependent on the State economy and the number of students we serve. We have faced the challenges of a declining student population

and responded by restructuring schools and directing limited resources. We have also faced the challenge of State government by coauthoring bills and fighting for legislation to protect large urban districts.

Early multiyear planning built on data driven assumptions has been the key to our success. District management is committed to building an open honest budget development process. One evidence of this is

the highly attended and active Budget Advisory Committee that meets monthly to review information and to garner input from our stakeholders. Examples of our commitment to ensure fiscal responsibility include:

- Working to qualify for Medicare reimbursements for health related services. As a result, unrestricted income has increased from \$164,882 in 2002 to \$820,000 in 2005.

- Providing accountability for funds expended – The district has expanded its internal auditing function and reports regularly to several major community groups.

We have worked hard to make sure the District currently has a balanced budget for the next three years with a firm commitment to maintain adequate reserves and improve student achievement.

7 School Modernization

The passage of Measure C in 1997, with 70% approval by the voters, provided significant improvements throughout the District. The work included:

- Replacing obsolete heating and air conditioning units
- Replacing 90% of the roofs district wide
- Upgrading school electrical systems
- Installing new carpet in the classrooms
- Painting all schools throughout

While this work provided greatly needed improvements, much of it was infrastructure related and not visible in the classroom. In 2002, the District returned to the community requesting passage of Measure F, a \$429 million bond to fund a capital improvement pro-

gram. Requiring only 55% of the vote for passage, the community showed its support by overwhelmingly passing the measure with 69% of the vote. These funds have provided significant improvements to the learning environment District wide. New construction is a significant component of this effort. New classroom buildings are planned at nine sites and three sites are being completely reorganized to maximize play areas. The construction of the new school at Empire Gardens is a highly visible example of the District's commitment to District-wide improvements. The improvement of athletic fields and grounds plays a central role in the current work. These improvements are beneficial for our students as well as our community. With new

synthetic stadium fields and all weather tracks complete at each high school, the replacement or rehabilitation of all the District natural turf fields has begun.

When complete in 2010 the improvements made through the community's investment in the facilities of the SJUSD will exceed \$750 million in value, dramatically improving the educational environment for our students, staff, and community as a whole.



All high schools have new synthetic stadium fields and all weather tracks

Parents, students and staff actively participate in SJUSD's annual Community Conversations.

8 Public Engagement

Begun in 1996, the SJUSD public engagement process has continually served to encourage regular meetings with neighborhood representatives, including parents and community members, school/district leadership and the Board of Education around school and district challenges and successes. Data sources used to inform public engagement include the annually administered student, parent, teacher

Climate Surveys, Annual Community Conversations, National Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished School criteria, School Performance Reports, and Cornerstone Project survey data. It is intended that principals and their communities be involved in the on-going process of establishing student and stakeholder requirements and in identifying areas for strategic goal-setting based upon the most current data. All school site principals, working with their communities, are engaged in this goal setting and problem solving process. Each principal is also asked to provide a report on performance results to the community on at least an annual basis. The dynamic of the localized Community Conversations, as part of the

overall public engagement process, is to develop a continuous data-driven dialogue with school communities that creates a responsive and collegial working relationship with parents, students, teachers and community members around school improvement and student achievement. Building trust and understanding within the community for public schools is a critically valued added benefit. In recognition of the exemplary public engagement work, SJUSD received the National School Public Relations Golden Achievement Award and has served as a regular presenter for the National School Boards Association to help other school districts create effective public engagement processes.



Partners include:
 Adobe Systems, Inc.
 Apple Computer, Inc.
 Applied Materials, Inc.
 Advanced Micro Devices
 Intel Corporation
 Tessera Technologies
 Wells Fargo
 Knight Foundation
 Ford Foundation
 Packard Foundation
 Robert Family Foundation
 City of San José
 San José State University
 San José City College
 West Valley College
 Stanford University
 National Hispanic University
 U.C. Santa Cruz

9 Business and Community Partnerships

San José Unified is fortunate to have the trust and support of key business, community and higher education partners. Each partner pours time, energy and resources into our schools to help us in building a foundation for our valley's future workforce. Applied Materials Inc., the Knight Foundation, Tessera Technologies,

Packard Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the City of San José, Wells Fargo and Adobe Systems, Inc. are a few of our key partners dedicated to providing our schools resources to support academic achievement, teacher professional development, arts enrichment, preschool, and before and after school programs. San

José State University, San José City College, West Valley College, Stanford University, National Hispanic University, and the University of California Santa Cruz work with our district to support teacher professional development and instill high expectations in our students to attend college.

The cost of this publication has been underwritten by our business partner Wells Fargo Bank. We thank them for their support of public education.



10 Highly Qualified Staff

To ensure every employee of SJUSD is committed to serving a student population that is increasingly diverse, we use the best available research to inform professional development throughout all levels of the organization. SJUSD successes are

supported by our ability to be flexible in addressing challenges. We continually strive to promote organizational change through research and development between higher education, business, community organizations and experts in the

field. The process begins every August with the District administrative staff all day review of key goals, measures and assessment of multi-year progress. This is translated into the daily workload of every District employee.

Board of Education



Since being elected to the Board of Education in 1994, I have watched this District make dramatic changes to improve the quality of education for our 31,000 students. In 1995, as part of District restructuring, we formed a Committee of 100. This Committee had representation from District Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Board Members, Community and Business partners. The final product from this effort was the creation of student Lifelong Learning Standards. These standards are now an instructional priority, visible in every school in the District. This collaborative community effort became a valuable message to all of us in understanding what we need

to value to ensure our students become well-educated productive members of our Silicon Valley workforce and community.

The Committee of 100 experience helped us to move forward in the creation of a nationally recognized Public Engagement process which places a high value on our many partnerships and continues to help us in gathering important information and ideas from our parents, schools and communities. As a direct result of this work, I've seen a remarkable increase in the number of San José Unified schools qualifying for and receiving California Distinguished School and National Blue Ribbon School recognition. The process required qualifying for these awards target student achievement and community support as critical components. As you will see in the Unified, our test scores are on the rise. This year, San José Unified had six of the top ten elementary schools in Santa Clara County showing the most growth.

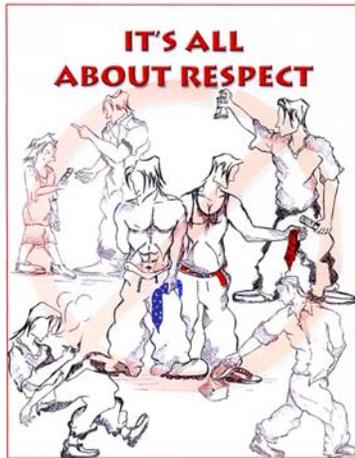
Our "Top 10 Accomplishments" demonstrate the results achieved when we work together as a community to provide every student safe and positive learning environments. These important values are not givens and require continued support through teacher and administrator professional development. Competitive salaries and benefits are also important to ensure we continue to attract the highly qualified individuals responsible for continuing to make San José Unified School District an urban model for school districts throughout the country. As a twelve-year member of your Board of Education, I take immense pride in our "Top Ten Accomplishments" and laud our staff and community for coming together to meet the challenge of ensuring student achievement and success.

Veronica Lewis
President



Student Board Member
Divya Musinipally
Leland High School

Each year an outstanding senior is chosen to serve on SJUSD's Board of Education. This year's representative is Divya Musinipally from Leland High School. Divya is a member of Leland's nationally ranked Speech and Debate team, Editor-in-Chief of the Charger Account, Leland's monthly newspaper, commissioner in the Associated Student Body government and a life-time member of the California Scholarship Federation.



A Safety Tip Line (1-886-344-TELL) has been established for San José Unified Schools. We encourage anyone to report any type of unsafe or inappropriate behavior. Callers can identify themselves or remain anonymous. Calls will be received by our internal SJ Police Department. Emergencies should always be reported to 911 and non-school crimes should still be reported to Crime Stoppers (408) 947- STOP.

SAFETY LINE AT 1-866-344-TELL

Anonymous and No Questions Asked

A safe place to report vandalism, bullying, theft, etc.

Sponsored by:
San José Teachers' Association
and San José Blue
Artwork designed by:
Nizam Jahangir, Broadway High School

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