



GRAVENSTEIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 26, 2009

Gravenstein Schools Excel on State Testing for the Seventh Year in a Row

For the seventh year in a row, students of the Gravenstein Union School District scored highest of all Sebastopol / West County schools on the state's Academic Performance Index (API), according to figures released last week by the California Department of Education. The scores reflect standardized testing completed in the spring of 2008.

Both Gravenstein Elementary and Hillcrest Middle Schools scored higher than other area schools, with Hillcrest receiving the second highest ranking in Sonoma County.

Perhaps most impressively, both schools excelled in the state's "Similar Schools" ranking, which compares API scores among a group of 100 schools throughout the state with similar "opportunities and challenges." The Similar Schools rankings take into account a host of demographic factors such as the proportion of a school's students who are English learners or economically disadvantaged.

Gravenstein Elementary earned a Similar Schools ranking of 9 out of 10, highest among West County elementary schools. Hillcrest Middle School earned a 10 out of 10 Similar Schools ranking, also highest in the West County. In fact, Hillcrest earned the second highest API among its peer group of 100 similar schools throughout California.

According to the California Department of Education website, a Similar Schools ranking of 9 or 10 is "well-above average for schools with a comparable mix of demographic characteristics."

"These scores don't just happen by accident," said Gravenstein superintendent Linda LaMarre. "Gravenstein's high ranking shows first and foremost the wonderful job being done by our great teaching staff, as well as the hard work and dedication of our students and the support and guidance of their parents."