

REPORTER

A Newsletter for Parents and Community

September 2010



This Issue Features:

The Problem Continues !
Page 1

**State Assessment
Results for Last Year**
Pages 2 & 3

Upcoming Events
Page 3

Transfer Procedures
Page 4

The Sulphur Springs District
Office is located at 27000 Weyerhaeuser
Way, Canyon Country, CA 91351-4947.
Board of Trustees Meetings are held on the
2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month
at 7:30 P.M.

The Public is invited!
Visit our Web Page at
www.sssd.k12.ca.us

Still a Problem!

by : Dr. Robert Nolet, Superintendent

This article was written last year as this District faced unprecedented loss of fiscal resources. That was the 2009-2010 school year. Nothing has really changed as California is now over eighty days into it's fiscal year with no state budget and little prospect of one being passed anytime soon. Parents, politicians, community and educators themselves want accountability. Those same groups want high student performance, safe, clean well-maintained schools, and students and staff with adequate resources in order to make our children competitive with the rest of this country as well as globally competitive.

Although our school year is well under way and we have again seen a loss of 21% of our revenues, this District remains committed to fulfill our responsibility to educate the students to the very best of our ability. We have raised class size again this year and have laid off certificated teaching staff, administrative staff and classified staff. We have continued to spend one-time resources to maintain. We have taken action after action to mitigate the lack of resources. Our staff, all of us, are taking salary reductions in the form of fur-

lough days. These affect the staff but it also means less instructional days for students. All of these things have been done in anticipation of a state budget that was forecast in May. We can only hope that even more drastic cuts are not on the horizon for when the leadership of the state (Republicans, Democrats, Executive) finally decide to act.



Yes, the Sulphur Springs School District will continue to provide the very best educational programs and services that we can with the resources that we are given. That is not a problem! Severe resource reductions have been a problem for two years and are becoming an even bigger problem as we progress into the 2010-11 school year. As we continue to move forward this year it is our intention to keep all our families, staff and community informed.

State Testing Results for 2009-10

by : Mrs. Kathy Harris, Assistant Superintendent Instruction

Working together each and every student within the Sulphur Springs School District can achieve! Parents, guardians, students, schools, teachers, and communities all benefit when the responsibility for learning is shared. Assessment is one important piece in the learning process. In spring 2010, students throughout California participated in the California Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR).

Sulphur Springs students in grades two through six took the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts and math answering questions that were related to the rigorous state standards they were taught throughout the year. Fifth graders also were assessed in science. The fourth grade writing CST was cancelled by the State due to budget constraints.

In mid-August, individual student results were mailed home to parents. This report informed parents how their child scored on the CST. Students could score at one of five performance levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic and Far Below Basic. The goal of No Child Left Behind is to have all students reach the 'Advanced or Proficient' level by 2013-2014 in English/language arts and math.

We are pleased to share that students in the Sulphur Springs School District continue to make steady progress in achieving at the 'Advanced or Proficient' performance levels. The following tables show the percentage of students scoring at the 'Advanced or Proficient' level in English/language arts, math and science.

Table 1 : Percent of Students Scoring at the 'Advanced or Proficient' Level on the English/language arts CST

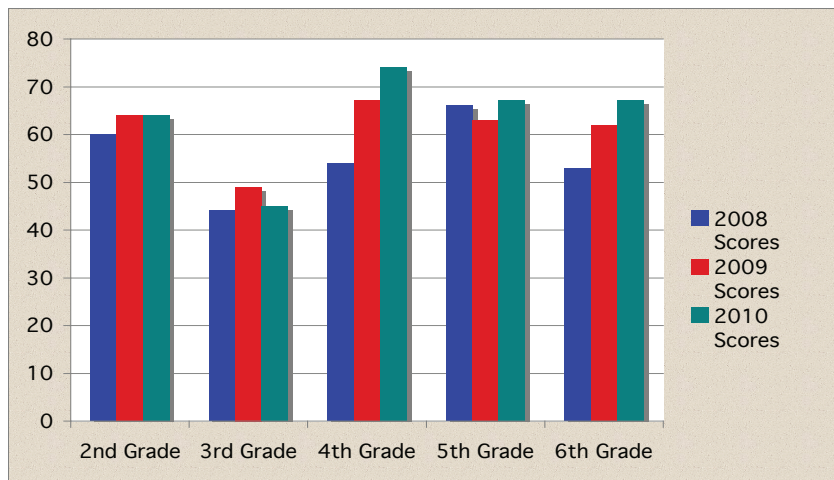
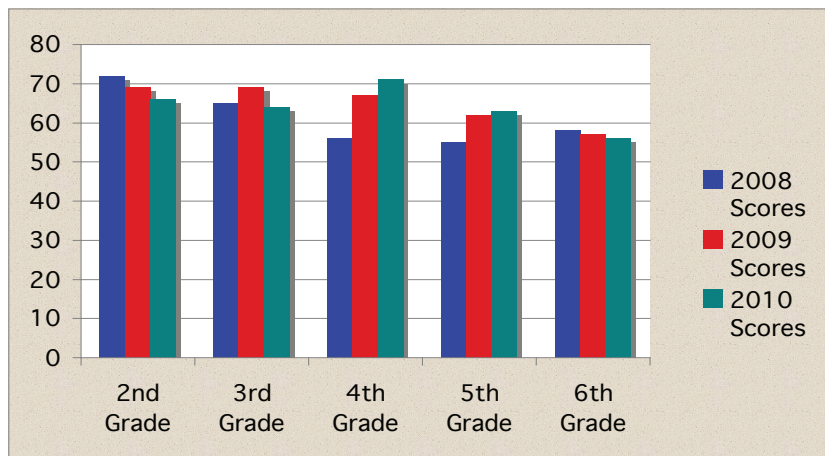


Table 1 displays the 2008, 2009 and 2010 scores in English/language arts for each grade level. For example, 53% of all sixth graders scored in the 'Advanced or Proficient' level in 2008, 62% of all sixth graders scored in 2009 and 67% in 2010.

Table 2 : Percent of Students Scoring at the 'Advanced or Proficient' Level on the Mathematics CST



Assessment Results : from page 2

Table 2 displays the 2008, 2009 and 2010 scores in math for each grade level. Besides showing the number of students scoring in 'Advanced or Proficient', the data also compares 2009 scores to 2008 scores. For example in 2009, 67% of the fourth graders scored 'Advanced or Proficient,' an increase of 15% from 2008.

Table 3 Percent of 5th Graders in Science CST Scoring at the 'Advanced or Proficient' Level

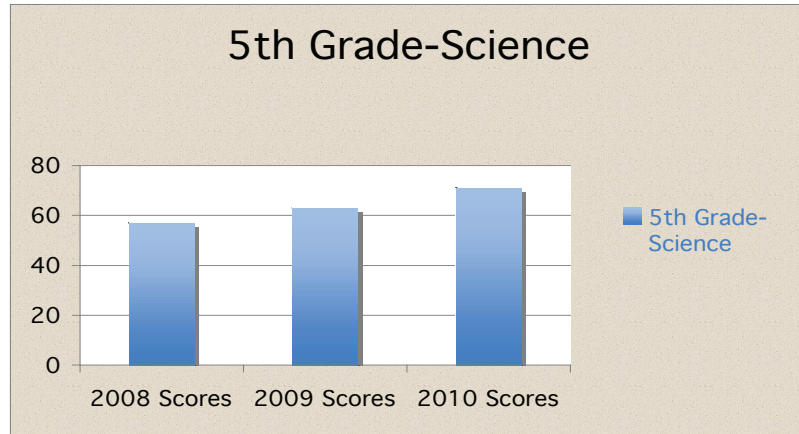


Table 3 shows that across the district the percentage of fifth graders scoring in the 'Advanced or Proficient' levels in science continues to soar.

Students with significant learning disabilities either took the California Modified Assessment (CMA) or the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA). CMA results informing parents of their child's performance levels in English language arts and math were also mailed home. CAPA results will be mailed out to parents as soon as the district receives them.

Congratulations to all of our students, parents, and staff on their hard work and commitment to student learning! As this new school year begins, let's continue to work together and expect and support every Sulphur Springs student in achieving the state standards. We continue to work towards meeting the district-wide goal of increasing reading comprehension skills for all students. The district also purchased a new math series that better address the rigorous math state standards, math academic language, and mathematical reasoning skills. We welcome parents to also visit a website, <http://starsamplequestions.org>, that provides additional information about the STAR Program, sample test questions from the different performance levels for each subject area, and other important links related to education today.

Upcoming Events

October 4th-8th	Fall Break - No School	
October 6th	Board of Education Meeting at District Office	6:30 p.m.
October 20th	Board of Education Meeting at Valley View School	7:30 p.m.
October 22nd	3rd Furlough Day (All schools & departments closed)	
November 3rd	Board of Education Meeting at Sulphur Springs	7:30 p.m.
November 11th	Veterans Day Holiday - No School	
November 17th	Board of Education Meeting at District Office	6:30 p.m.
November 18th & 19th	Parent Conferences at all schools	
November 25th & 26th	Thanksgiving Holidays	

School Transfer Opportunities

by : Mrs. Kim Lytle, Director of Personnel/Pupil Services



We, as a district, understand that there are sometimes reasons for which families would like their child to attend a school other than their own. For these reasons, we hold Open Enrollment between March 15 and the beginning of May each year. During this time, we give the opportunity for families to file a "transfer request" with our district. These transfers are processed over the summer based on the enrollment of the school requested. If you wish to transfer your student to a school other than your home school for the 2011-2012 school year, please keep the March 15 date in your planning. We do allow requests to be submitted throughout the school year for immediate transfers as well. These are processed within 10 working days and are also

based on availability of space in the school requested. These transfer forms can be found in any of our school and district offices and you may call the Pupil Services Office at 252-5131 for more assistance.

Continued Focus : " Because we have outstanding teachers, administrators, parents and students we were able to improve our test results last year and all are to be congratulated. We can and we will continue to improve our results in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Our students deserve it. "

Dr. Nolet, Superintendent of Schools

Sulphur Springs School District
27000 Weyerhaeuser Way
Canyon Country, CA 91351-4947
(661) 252-5131 (661) 252-6849 FAX
www.sssd.k12.ca.us

Board of Trustees
Dr. Kerry Clegg, Member
Mr. Denis DeFigueiredo, Member
Mr. Michael Hogan, Member
Mrs. Shelley Weinstein, Member
Mr. Sheldon Wigdor, President

Administrative Staff
Dr. Robert Nolet, Superintendent
Mrs. Vicky Myers, Asst. Supt. Business
Mrs. Kathy Harris, Asst. Supt. Inst.
Mr. Paul Frisina, Dir. Special Ed.
Mrs. Kim Lytle, Dir. Personnel/Pupil Sr.



Comment Card

Please mail this comment card to our District Office or simply fax to (661) 252-6849

The Sulphur Springs School District is very interested in knowing your thoughts regarding any of the topics we've covered in this newsletter or any other questions or ideas that you may have.



(Optional) Contact name: _____ Phone () _____